TRAVELS

IN THE

TWO SICILIES.

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BY

HENRY SWINBURNE, Esq.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

SECT. XXV. *History of Bari—beſieged by the Normans—Poſſeſſors.—History of John Pipino—Mola di Bari—Polignano-Monopoli.* 1

SECT. XXVI. *Ruins of Gnatia—Quality of Stone—exceſſive Heat—bad Water—Way of taking Turtle Doves.—Oſtuni.—Errors in Geography.* - - 13

SECT. XXVII. *Reception at Francavilla—Harangues—Deſcription of the Town—Foundation—Tenures—Dinner—Tragedy.* - 25

SECT. XXVIII. *Oria.—Bonifazi Family.—Culture of Cotton.—Caſalnuovo.—Dog-eaters.—Ruins of Manduria—Extraordinary Well.* 32

TARANTO and its ENVIRONS

SECT. XXIX. *Le Grottaglie.—Galeſus.—Account of the Tarantine Sheep.* 43

SECT. XXX. *Wall of Japygia.—Vale of Citrezze.—View of Taranto — Aqueduct — Deſcription of the City—Shell-Fiſh.* 54

SECT. XXXI. *Ruins of Tarentum.—Fiſh from which the Purple Dye was extracted—Method of extracting.* - - 62

SECT. XXXII. *Mare Piccolo.—Beds of Muſcles—Treatment of them.—Oyſters — Nautilus —Coral—Pinna Marina.* 69

SECT. XXXIII. *Kinds of Fiſh — Duties—Wine-Grottos— Citrello — Bridge — Iſlands — Outer Harbour—Fruits — Cultivation — Honey.* - - 80

SECT. XXXIV. *Origin of Tarentum.—Firſt Adventurers.—Cretans.—Phalantus and the Lacedæ-*

Lacedæmonians—Introduction of Democracy.—Proſperity—Traffick—Power.—Archytas.—Degeneracy—Learning—Arts. 90

SECT. XXXV. *Foreign Generals employed.—Pyrrhus.—War with Rome.—Subjection of Tarentum—taken by Hannibal, who draws his Fleet over the Iſthmus.—Tarentum again ſubdued by the Romans—Decline—its Lords—Character of the Inhabitants.* 102

JOURNEY from TARANTO, to REGGIO.

SECT. XXXVI. *Departure from Taranto.—River Taras.—Interview of the Triumvirs on the Baſiento.—Remains of Metapontum—its Hiſtory.—Pythagoras.—Deſolate State of the Country.* - - - 115

SECT. XXXVII. *River Agri.—Farm of the Jeſuits.—Ruins of Heraclea.—Victory gained by Pyrrhus near the Sinno.—Entrance of Calabria.—Roſeto.—Cuſtoms of the Calabrians.—*

Marriages—Letting of Farms—Diſtreſs from Oppreſſion—Fecundity of the Women—Odd Notions. - - - 126

SECT. XXXVIII. *Game-Laws.—Dogs.—Gathering of Manna.—Agriculture.—Buffaloes.—River Coſcile.—Scite of Sybaris—its Hiſtory—Proſperous State—Deſtruction.—Thurium.—Herodotus.—Auguſtus, called Thurinus* 138

SECT. XXXIX. *Paſſage of the River Crati.—Corigliano—Orange-Groves—Huſbandry—Compoſition of the Hills.—Roſſano, Account of the Baſilian Monks and St. Nilus.* 157

SECT. XL. *Account of the Gypſies.—Cariati.—Cattle of Calabria.—Ciro.—Story of the Warden of a maritime Tower.—Mode of diſcharging Cannon.* - - 167

SECT. XLI. *Strongoli.—Breed of Horſes.—Cotrone—New Harbour—Trade.—Hiſtory of Croton—Greatneſs and Downfal.* 180

SECT. XLII. *Voyage round the Capes.—Ruins of the Temple of Juno.—Charms againſt Fire-Arms.—Iſland of Calypſo.* 193

SECT.

SECT. XLIII. *Cutro.—Ulucciali Baſſa.—Baliaſtro.—St. Thomas Aquinas.—Cropani.—Hiſtory of Don Sebaſtian.—Catanzaro.* 202

SECT. XLIV. *Squillace.—Caſſiodorus—Mode of ſummoning Debtors.—Paſſages of Horace explained.—Stilo.—Scite of Caulon.—La Roccella.* - - 212

SECT. XLV. *Gerace.—Ruins of Locri.—Hiſtory of Locri.—Zaleucus the Lawgiver.—Poſſeſſion by Evil Spirits.—Story of a Demoniac.—Bite of a Viper.* - - 224

SECT. XLVI. *Rich Paſtures.—Cape Spartivento.—Bova.—Account of the Albaneſe—their Arrival in the Kingdom—Numbers—Language—Rites—Character.* 253

SECT. XLVII. *View of Etna.—Capo dell' Armi.—Plain of Reggio.—Treatment of Silkworms—Regulations—Taxes.* - 246

SECT. XLVIII. *Fruits.—Oranges—Olives—Palmtrees — Dates — Figs — Cheſnuts. — Silver Mine.—Deſcription of Reggio.—La Fata Morgana.* - - - 254

JOURNEY from REGGIO to NAPLES.

SECT. XLIX. *Voyage to Gallipoli.—Deſcription of that City—Traffick—Oil Trade.—Agriculture.—Cultivation of the Olive Tree.—Experiments on the making of Oil.—Species of Olive Trees.—Hunting.* 267

SECT. L. *Nardo.—Otranto—ſacked by the Turks.—Itinerant Muſicians—Specimen of their Muſick.—Lecce.—Architecture—Character of the People—Leccian Muſick.* 278

SECT. LI. *Brindiſi.—Antiquities—Port—Bay—Columns of the Light-Houſe—Ruin of the Harbour—Bad Air—Depopulation—Attempts to remedy theſe Evils.—New Channel cut.* 291

SECT. LII. *Hiſtory of Brindiſi.—Dance of a Tarantata—Probable Origin of theſe Dances.—Deſcription of the Tarantula.* 302

SECT. LIII. *Trojan Way.—Orobanche.—Bitonto.—Obeliſk—Battle.—Ruvo.—Combat at Quarata.—*

Quarata.—Caſtel del Monte.——Andria.—Canoſa — its Hiſtory—Antiquities.—Monument of Bohemund.—Character of the Norman Adventurers. - - 311

SECT. LIV. *Lavello.—Death of Conrad.—Venoſa.—Church of the Trinity.—Suppoſed Buſt of Horace.—His Banduſian Fountain.—Barile.—Mount Voltore.—Ruins of Herdonia.* 326

SECT. LV. *Benevento.—Arch of Trajan—Antiquities—Cathedral.—Hiſtory of Benevento.—Lombards—Dukes—Princes—Diviſion into Two Principalities—Ruin.* 334

SECT. LVI. *Walnut Tree of the Witches.—Battle.—Character of Manfred.—Appian Way.—Manteſarchio.—Furcæ Caudinæ.—Arienzo.—Acerra.—Arrival at Naples.* 345

JOURNEY

FROM

NAPLES TO TARANTO,

CONTINUED.

SECTION XXV.

I FIND little mention made in ancient authors of Barium, its foundation or history: coins ſtruck by its municipal magiſtrates ſtill exiſt *. The Lombards, Greeks, and Sara-

* Nummi Barinorum.

ARG. 1. Cap. Mercurii=Gryps BA.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Jovis laur.=Prora navis in quâ Cupido ſtans arcum tend. ſubtus delphin BAPINΩN.

2. Cap. Palladis gal.=Navis & Cupido coronam impon. trophæo.

3. Cap. Jovis=Prora BAPI. Æ.

cens, diſputed the poſſeſſion of this city in the ninth century. In the tenth, it roſe to diſtinction, on becoming the reſidence of the Greek Catapan or Viceroy, and of a metropolitan Biſhop. In 1089, the archiepiſcopal dignity was confirmed by the court of Rome. The book of conſtitutions, compiled for the juridical government of the province, and ſtill in uſe, is a reſpectable voucher for the importance and policy of Bari, during the middle ages.

About the year 1000, Bari became the ſcene of conſpiracies and revolutions: here Melo formed the project of the firſt confederacy againſt the Grecian Emperors; and though he did not live to ſee any great ſucceſs attend his ſchemes, yet it was owing to his ſagacity in pointing out the way, that the Normans were enabled to expell the Greeks from Italy; out of reſpect for his memory, thoſe conquerors raiſed his ſon Argirius to the ſupreme command over their league. Bari did not ſteadily adhere to Melo's plans, but ſoon returned to the obedience of the

the eaſtern Emperor, and was one of the laſt and firmeſt ſupports of his dominion.

In 1067, Robert Guiſcard inveſted it by ſea and land; and, to prevent ſuccours being thrown in, incloſed it with a ſemicircle of ſhips joined together by chains and booms, each extremity having a bridge of communication with the camp, which completed the line of circumvallation. This blockade laſted four years; during which, both parties exhauſted every art of attack and defence practiſed in thoſe ages, when the machines for demoliſhing fortifications were clumſy and feeble; and when famine, more frequently than force, compelled towns to ſurrender. The Barians, finding themſelves worn out with hard fare and inceſſant alarms, and foreſeeing that the obſtinacy of their adverſary would at length overcome their powers of defence, endeavoured to avert their ruin by cutting off the chief of the beſiegers; with this intent, one Amerinus ſtole out of the city by night, and drawing up to the quarters

of Guiſcard, attempted to kill him by thruſting a poiſoned lance through the wattles of his hut; but the weapon proved too ſhort; and Robert, as we are told by his honeſt biographer Malaterra, took care to have the wickered walls of his cabbin well plaſtered over, to prevent ſuch attacks for the future.

Earl Roger ſoon after joined his brother with a ſtrong fleet; and helped him to carry on his aſſaults with ſuch vigour, that the beſieged were on the point of capitulating, when their hopes were revived by the appearance of an Imperial ſquadron coming to their relief, under Joſceline d'Avranches, a Norman gentleman, who had ſought his fortune in Greece, and ingratiated himſelf with the Emperor. The Greek ſhips were no ſooner deſcried, than Roger ſlipped his cables, and ran out to ſea to give them battle. Joſceline was true to his truſt, and bore down gallantly upon the Earl: the engagement was ſharp, but very ſhort; for the Greeks were no match for the Norman veterans.

veterans. The Imperial veſſels were taken, ſunk, or diſperſed, and their admiral made a priſoner. Roger returned triumphant, and Bari opened its gates to the conquerors.

To ſecure the allegiance of ſo capital a town, a citadel was afterwards erected by King Roger; but it was ſcarcely finiſhed, when the Emperor Lotharius razed it to the ground. Upon the retreat of the Imperialiſts, Jacinthus aſſumed the title of Prince, and refuſed to ſubmit to the King, who laid ſiege to the city. Bari was then a populous place, and made an obſtinate reſiſtance. The capitulation was honourable, but rendered invalid by a clauſe, ſtipulating, that all the Royaliſts, taken during the ſiege, were to be delivered up ſafe and unhurt. When the King made his entry into Bari, a Norman captive, who had been deprived of his ſight, and otherwiſe cruelly treated by the orders of Jacinthus, was led through the crowd to the feet of his ſovereign, to claim juſtice and vengeance. Roger, willing to ſeize any pretext

for annulling the capitulation, aſſembled his council, declared the treaty void, and cauſed Jacinthus, with his principal adherents, to be hanged.

Majone, prime miniſter to William the Bad, was born at Bari, the ſon of a notary; but the affection, we may preſume, this favourite retained for the place of his nativity, did not prevent William from treating it with the utmoſt ſeverity. The Barians had joined in the grand rebellion againſt him, had demoliſhed his caſtle and palace, and given the furniture as plunder to their ſoldiers; therefore, when the chief citizens fell on their knees before him, ſuing for mercy, he anſwered all their ſupplications with theſe words: "You did not ſpare my houſe, "how can you expect I ſhould ſpare yours?" They were ordered to diſlodge within the ſpace of two days, and their dwellings to be levelled to the ground. The city muſt have riſen very ſpeedily out of its ruins, as the Emperor Frederick eſtabliſhed an annual fair here in 1233:

and

and in 1248, ordered the town to be deſtroyed, to puniſh the inhabitants for treaſonable practices.

The firſt perſon enfeoffed with the honours of Bari was Bohemund of Antioch, who accepted of theſe and other demeſnes in lieu of his birthright. The ſecond was Tancred ſon of King Roger: Jacinthus had them next. The Princes of Taranto, deſcended from Charles the Second, held them afterwards. Their heireſs carried this barony into the houſe of Baux, which was diſpoſſeſſed by Joan the Firſt. During her reign, John Pipino Earl of Minervino uſurped this fief for a ſhort time. He was the ſon of an officer of the revenue, who, having amaſſed great riches by the management of the public money, or by treaſures found at Lucera, where he ſuperintended the expulſion of the Saracens, purchaſed large eſtates for his children. John was an empty vain-glorious man, deceived into a high opinion of his own conſequence by the flattery of miſcreants and paraſites, who flocked

from all parts to ſhare the prodigal bounty of this new-made nobleman. The ſucceſs that attended an expedition againſt Nicholas Rienzi, the famous tribune of Rome, completed his intoxication. The Orſini and Colonna factions, being overpowered by that demagogue, craved aſſiſtance from Minervino, who always entertained a formidable band of ſoldiers ready for miſchief. Pipino embraced the opportunity of employing his troops, defeated Nicholas, and returned to Puglia mad with joy and pride. His inſolence, rapacity, and exceſſes, now diſdained all bounds; and half the neighbouring provinces were deſolated by his lawleſs freebooters. The royal anger was at laſt rouzed, and a complete overthrow, near Aſcoli, cruſhed all his glories; his adherents fled, and Pipino himſelf, abandoned and betrayed, was taken and hanged at a window of the caſtle of Altamura; his brothers ſhared his unhappy fate: and thus one generation ſaw the riſe and fall of this powerful family.

Ladiſlaus

Ladiſlaus granted Bari to the Orſini Princes of Taranto, who afterwards enjoyed it almoſt as a free ſovereignty, having extorted from Alphonſus the Firſt the privilege of exporting all manner of commodities without paying any duties to the crown. This exemption brought in great riches, and rendered them very formidable, as Ferdinand the Firſt found to his ſorrow, in his wars with the Barons. While Aragon and Anjou were contending, James Caldora, a famous Abruzzeſe chieftain ſeized upon Bari, and his ſon Anthony aſſumed the title of Duke.

Upon the extinction of the houſe of Taranto, Bari reverted to the King, and was ſettled by Alphonſus the Second upon the family of Sforza, in conſideration of the marriage of his daughter Iſabella with the Duke of Milan. According to treaty, theſe eſtates became the property of Bona Queen of Poland, at whoſe death this duchy returned to the crown; to which it has ever ſince remained annexed.

Our

Our ſtay at Bari was prolonged by my fellow-traveller's being ſeized with a feveriſh complaint, which at firſt wore an alarming appearance, but ſoon took a favourable turn: however, he did not think it ſafe to continue his journey farther ſouth, as the weather was growing very warm; and therefore determined to return to Naples as ſoon as poſſible. I continued our original route on the 29th of April.

The firſt place I came to was Mola di Bari, a town containing ſix thouſand ſouls, prettily ſituated on rocks, and very ſhewy from afar: what it may be on a nearer view I know not, as I rode paſt without ſtopping, my memorandums making no mention of any thing remarkable in it. I next paſſed by the Franciſcan convent of Cape San Vito, delightfully ſeated among the olive groves, on a neck of land jutting out into the ſea. Here travellers uſually dine or ſleep; but as it had been repreſented to me as a very bad place of baiting, I rode a mile farther for dinner to Polignano, a ſmall city,

perched,

perched, like a bird's neſt, on a crag riſing perpendicularly out of the water. The biſhop reſides at Mola. The Caraccioli, Rodolvich, Toraldi, Stendardi, Boffa, and Lieto, have been ſucceſſively lords of this place *.

The ſoil of the whole tract I travelled through this morning is ſhallow and rocky, covered with olive trees, which are the principal object of the cultivator's care, as oil is the main ſupport of commerce in this province. The rocks abound with pectinites of a large ſize.

While my dinner was preparing, I amuſed myſelf with looking at ſome peaſants caſting wooden balls with their feet; they are extremely dextrous at the ſport, lifting the ball up with their toe, and toſſing it a conſiderable length, along a high road as rugged and full

* Underneath the rocks, on which this city is built, is a very beautiful cavern which I did not ſee, from my ignorance of its exiſtence. It is only acceſſible by water, and is above two hundred feet deep; and, I am aſſured, very well deſerves the attention of the traveller.

of

of protuberances as the Glaciers of Switzerland.

In the afternoon, I had a pleaſant ride of five miles, through noble olive woods, to Monopoli. This city, like moſt others on the coaſt, deceives one by its outward appearance into an opinion of extent and magnificence, which vaniſhes on cloſer inſpection. The environs are neatly planted with fig, almond, and ſome few lemon and orange trees. I ſaw but one garden that had any ſhew of thoſe evergreen fruit-trees to boaſt of. Olives are the grand concern. The extent of the plantations of this valuable tree is really aſtoniſhing. I was aſſured that the olive woods reach from Monopoli twelve miles, on three ſides, without interruption. There are no great Barons in its immediate neighbourhood; and every burgher has his maſſaria or farm, which he cultivates on his own account. This territory is ſaid to yield annually twenty thouſand ſalme of oil.

Monopoli is a dark diſagreeable town, with narrow, crooked ſtreets, and very lofty flat-roofed houſes. It is ſuppoſed to have been originally a ſtation called Egnatiolum, and to have grown to the ſize and dignity of a city, by the ruin of Gnatia. In the firſt Norman partition, it fell to the ſhare of Hugh. The Capeci were for ſome time its poſſeſſors.

SECTION XXVI.

NEXT morning I was on horſeback before ſun-riſe, intending to make a very long day's journey; and being apprehenſive, from the heavy feel of the air, that I ſhould ſuffer from intenſe heat in the noon-tide hours. My prognoſtics were but too juſt; for a hotter ſun, and a more ſtifling ſultrineſs, could not be felt in the dog-days.

The ſoil of the country is a reddiſh petrifaction, evidently the ſame as the rocks upon the ſhore.

ſhore. As I rode along, the huge piles of ſea-weed, which almoſt form a rampart on the coaſt, appeared to be equally unaffected either by wind or waves. I alighted ſeveral times to examine theſe heaps, and found different degrees of hardneſs in them. Some were quite moiſt and mucilaginous; others already petrified on the ſurface, but ſoft and pliable within; others again thoroughly pervaded by the ſtony humour.

The ſwarth on the ſands is very poor, and produces few uncommon plants. One is a beautiful poppy, of a bright yellow colour.

At a mile's diſtance from Monopoli, the landſcape expands itſelf, and on the right hand diſcovers a long range of woody hills. The olive grounds in the plain are remarkable for their great extent, thickneſs of foliage, and ſize of trees. They are pruned into the form of a cup, by cutting out the centric upright branches, in the ſame manner as gardeners trim gooſeberry buſhes. This treatment lets in an equal ſhare

of

of ſun and ventilation to every part, and brings on an univerſal maturity.

Six miles farther are the ruins of Gnatia, the laſt ſtage but one of Horace's journey to Brundufium, and now called Torre d'Agnazzo. Little remains except part of the ramparts, which, near the ſea, are entire as high up as the bottom of the battlements. Sixteen courſes of large ſtones are ſtill complete; and the thickneſs of this bulwark is exactly eight yards; an extraordinary breadth, which I aſcertained by repeated meaſurements. The town ſeems to have been ſquare, and its principal ſtreets drawn in ſtraight lines. On the moſt elevated part is a watch-tower; and probably this was the ſituation of the antient citadel. Near it are ſome arches and vaults. The view towards Monopoli is extremely beautiful.

Want of water cauſed the deſtruction of Gnatia; a ſcarcity I had an opportunity of being made ſenſible of, and which naturally explains Horace's phraſe of

"—Gnatia

"— Gnatia lymphis
Iratis exſtructa.—"

The few paſtoral inhabitants of theſe ruins have no temples left to melt incenſe in without fire, for the diverſion or aſtoniſhment of paſſengers. But the art is not loſt in the kingdom; and, whether preſerved by tradition or revived by ingenuity, is ſtill practiſed with ſucceſs.

The ſtone employed in building along this coaſt, is cut with great eaſe in every part of the country. It is a ſoft whitiſh concretion, that hardens by being expoſed to the air. The method uſed by the quarrymen is extremely ſimple: they clear away the ſoil from the level parts, and then hew out regular cubes, which leave vacancies in the rock exactly reſembling ponds, baths, or reſervoirs, with flights of ſteps all round leading down to the bottom. Theſe holes are frequently filled up with earth, and olive ſets planted in them.

The

The cyſtus, which grows in great abundance on theſe waſte lands, exhaled ſo powerful an effluvium, when the ſun had been riſen ſome time, that I was overcome with it. One of the ſervants, already half-dead with heat and fatigue, had the additional ill-fortune of being frightened almoſt out of his wits. As we were trotting along the burning ſands, he on a ſudden gave a loud ſhriek, and threw himſelf from his horſe, crying out that he was a dead man, for either a ſcorpion, a tarantula, or a ſerpent, had ſtung him on the inſtep. On pulling off his boot, I found that his terrors and pains were cauſed by the rays of the ſun, which had penetrated through a hole in the upper leather, and raiſed a bliſter on the ſkin. The prepoſterous geſtures and expreſſions of this lazzarone ſupported my ſpirits till we arrived at a ſmall ſingle houſe, conſiſting of a kitchen, loft, and ſtable, lately erected for the convenience of travellers, by the agents of the Order of Malta, to which the land belongs. The kitchen was too hot for

me to breathe in, and the other two apartments as full of fleas as Shakſpeare's inn at Rocheſter; ſo that my only refuge was the narrow ſhade of the houſe, which was contracted every minute more and more, as the ſun advanced towards the meridian. Behind the houſe then I ſat down, to dine upon the fare we had brought in our wallet. Unluckily I had not thought of wine or water; neither of which were now to be had tolerably drinkable; ſo that I was obliged to content myſelf with the water of a ciſtern full of tadpoles, and qualify it with a large quantity of wine that reſembled treacle much more than the juice of the grape. While I held the pitcher to my lips, I formed a dam with a knife, to prevent the little frogs from ſlipping down my throat. Till that day I had had but an imperfect idea of thirſt.

As ſoon as we had recruited our ſtrength and ſpirits, we left the inn, and retired gradually from the ſea, drawing up towards the hills, through olive-groves that afforded us a very welcome

welcome ſhade. Flocks of turtle-doves ſkimmed acroſs the road; but, though they frequently fluttered near me, I reſpected the virtues aſcribed to them by the poets too much to think of ſhooting at them:—young ones are eſteemed a great dainty. The mode of killing them is very ſingular: When the ſun is vertical, and the ſky clear, a couple of ſportſmen drive into the olive grounds in an open chaiſe, and move ſlowly, but continually, round the trees, till they ſpy a dove ſitting upon the boughs. The poor bird, ſtruck with the unuſual ſight, or giddy with the rotation of the wheels, fixes its eyes upon them, and whirls its head round in imitation of their motion. When the eye of the turtle is thus faſcinated, one of the fowlers ſlips out of the carriage, and fires his piece. Little ſtone baſons full of water are alſo frequently placed for the doves to drink at, while the ſhooter lies in ambuſcade behind a buſh.

At the end of ſix miles we rode up to Oſtuni, a poor epiſcopal city, on a ſteep rocky

brow, overlooking a whole foreſt of olive trees, and a long range of coaſt. In the fourteenth century it belonged to the Sanſeverini, and afterwards to the Zevallas *.

* On a green before the church of the Capuchin friars the duke delle Noci was killed in ſingle combat by the duke of Martina in 1664; at which time the fury of faſhionable murder raged with great violence among the proud ungovernable nobles.

A moſt famous duel was fought the ſame year between Don Francis Caraffa and Don Julius Aquaviva, who, after many bootleſs arbitrations, finding themſelves under an indiſpenſable neceſſity of deciding a family quarrel by the ſword, ſought for a proper place to engage in. No Roman Catholic ſtate would allow of a public duel, becauſe ſuch combats are anathematized by the eccleſiaſtical canons; they therefore applied to the Imperial city of Nuremburg, and obtained leave to draw regular liſts, and to come to action, under the ſafeguard of that magiſtracy, in preſence of the nobility of the country. Don Francis was diſabled by a wound in the arm, and the victory adjudged to his antagoniſt.—The doughty knights embraced on the field of battle, and returned together very good friends to Naples. Such an adventure as this caſt a ridicule upon the practice, and co-operated with the growing effeminacy of manners in ſtifling the ſpirit of duelling.

We

We now entered a more agreeable atmoſphere, where the heat was tempered by a gentle breeze. The appearance of Oſtuni was ſo far from inviting, that I determined to travel to Francavilla that night. The road was ſtony, and continually up and down hill, through a poor deſert country, much covered with thin woods of unhealthy ſtunted oaks. Theſe hills are the ſouth-eaſt extremity of a ridge that runs out from the Apennines, at a point many miles to the north-eaſt of our road; we never came in ſight of any mountains. From hence to the cape of Santa Maria di Leuca * there is not a ſingle eminence of any conſequence; the whole tract is rather an uneven plain than a hilly country. Without rivers, and almoſt without rivulets, yet, from ſome extraordinary quality in the ſoil, and the vapours of ſubterraneous

* The ancient Promontorium Salentinum, which terminates the peninſula of Japygia, at the tip of the heel of the boot, to which geographers have likened the ſhape of Italy.

lakes, this province is ſurpriſingly fertile and vegetative. The exiſtence of underground reſervoirs is proved by the ſhallowneſs of the wells, and by the pools that appear wherever the level is low. All the rain that falls is ſwallowed up, before it can reach the ſea, by large cracks in the rocks, called Voraggini, or Abyſſes, marked down in the maps as lakes. In this corner of Italy every geographer, except Zannoni, draws, from the Apennines near Venoſa to the Capo di Leuca, an uninterrupted diagonal chain of lofty mountains, upon which is written, *Branch of the Apennines.* This line is engraved of a ſize that would, if it exiſted, render the communication between Baran di Taranto, as difficult as the paſſage of Mount Cenis or Sempion in the Alps. Had theſe geographers viſited the country they were about to delineate, or even enquired of the common carriers how they paſs this imaginary cordillera, they would ſoon have been made ſenſible of their error; for ſo little is the whole tract afore-

ſaid

ſaid raiſed above the level of the ſea, that, from the round Knolls of Oria, a centrical point between Taranto and Brindiſi, there are few riſings high enough to prevent the eye from commanding a view as far as the ſea in each direction. Had they attended to the idea conveyed by Virgil, in his deſcription of the diſtant appearance of this peninſula, they might have ſuſpected ſomething of the truth. That ſenſible poet plainly indicates the lowneſs of the Salentine ſhores, in the third book of the Æneid, where his Hero relates the voyage ſouthward, from that point of Epirus called the Acroceraunian mountains, now Monti della Chimera, which are not ſixty miles from Otranto :

Provehimur pelago vicina Ceraunia juxta;
Unde iter Italiam, curſuſque breviſſimus undis—
* * * * * * * * * * *
Jamque rubeſcebat ſtellis Aurora fugatis,
Cùm ſemel *obſcuros colles*, *humilem*que videmus
Italiam *.———

* "We are carried on the waves near the Ceraunian cape, "from which point is the ſhorteſt paſſage to Italy.—And "now Aurora bluſhing, after putting the ſtars to flight; when "ſuddenly we behold the *duſky hills* and *low ſhores* of Italy."

Could they ſuppoſe ſo exact a deſcriber would have called Italy *low*, and ſpoken only of *hills*, lighted up by the riſing ſun, if there had been any mountains in the Salentine territory, where, from the narrowneſs of the land, they muſt have reached to the very edge of the water? Every one that knows any thing of the Italian atmoſphere, muſt recollect, that ſixty miles is not a ſufficient diſtance to hide ſuch mountains as the Apennines from the ſight, if they really did extend their branches ſo near to Greece; and that to navigators their tops would be viſible in the morning, long before the low country at their feet.

Towards duſk we left the high lands, and traverſing a well-cultivated champaign country, arrived at Francavilla, where, by the Prince's orders, I was received and treated with extraordinary reſpect.

SECTION

SECTION XXVII.

I OUGHT to eſteem the next day as one of the moſt brilliant of my life; for I received honours ſufficient to turn the head of a plain Engliſh gentleman. As ſoon as I was dreſt, an audience was demanded by Don Domenico, the Steward, who having formerly officiated in the capacity of Clerk of the Chamber to the Princeſs, was perfectly qualified for the poſt of Maſter of the Ceremonies. Being admitted in his gala ſuit of many colours and antique cut, he expreſſed his diſappointment on finding he had the honour of receiving but one *Nobile Signore* inſtead of two, as his maſter had notified. After I had explained the reaſon of my friend's abſence, he launched out into pathetic compliments of condolence, and promiſed me, that the chaplain ſhould offer up prayers for his ſpeedy recovery. And now the Rector of the College,

College, the Father Guardian of the Capuchins, and the Magiſtrates, entered in great form. They firſt addreſſed me in a ſhort, polite ſpeech, which he uttered with ſome embarraſſment. My introducer of Ambaſſadors whiſpered in my ear, that the Rector had compoſed a very eloquent harangue for *two* illuſtrious travellers; but on finding only one, had been obliged to lay it aſide, as he could not at a minute's warning adapt to the ſingular all the figures of rhetoric which were addreſſed to the dual number. What I loſt in his diſcourſe, was made up to me by the friar, who, with a naſal tone and many bows, beſtowed upon me every poſſible virtue, and ſtruck out ſuch wild metaphors, as quite enchanted his auditors, and almoſt threw me off my guard. He acquainted the company, that I travelled into foreign parts to collect oil for the lamps of ſcience in my own country; that my mother wit was the wick, and my eloquence the flame.—I was happy to diſmiſs the orators, and was accompanying them to the door, when my

my Mentor ſtopped me ſhort, leſt I ſhould make too great a conceſſion.

I was afterwards conducted to the chapel, where the town muſicians played, and a cloud of incenſe darkened the place during the whole ſervice: after which Don Domenico led me out to ſee the town; or rather to be ſeen; for we had a mob at our heels all the way. I was heartily ſick of my glory, and ſhould have fled from it, had I not been ſenſible how great a mortification it would have been to my hoſts.

Francavilla is large, and regularly built; the ſtreets wide and ſtraight; the houſes ſhewy, though in a heavy ſtyle of architecture. Since the year 1734, when a conſiderable part of the town was thrown down by an earthquake, the inhabitants are ſo afraid of another viſitation, that they dare not raiſe their dwellings more than one ſtory above the ground-floor. The main ſtreet would be thought handſome even in a capital city. The avenues to the gates are well planted, and afford a pleaſant ſhade. The inhabitants,

inhabitants, in number twelve thouſand, ſubſiſt by the ſale of oil and cotton, of which laſt they make very fine ſtockings. A great quantity of tobacco is raiſed in the lordſhip, which, by a compoſition entered into with the farmers of the revenue, is allowed to be cured and manufactured here into a ſpecies of ſnuff, in colour, flavour, and ſoftneſs, not a bad imitation of the Spaniſh.

The Capuchins have a ſpacious convent, and a new church, airily and fantaſtically fitted up: the pulpit and confeſſionals are of inlaid wood, worked by the hands of a friar.

The college, directed by prieſts of the Scuolepie, is a large edifice, with many handſome halls and galleries. They teach, as far as philoſophy incluſively, about half a dozen boarders, and a conſiderable number of day-ſcholars.

The principal pariſh-church is new, gay, and well lighted; but ſo ſtuccoed, feſtooned, and flowery, that the whole decoration is a mere chaos. The plan was drawn at Rome, but executed

ecuted by a Puglian architect, who, from caprice or blunder, reverſed the diſpoſition of the parts, and opened the chief door at the head of the Latin croſs, a place uſually allotted to the altar and choir. This alteration is no improvement in the art, but, on the contrary, an experiment productive of very aukward effects. In a ſide chapel is a dark portrait of the Madonna, which was the cauſe of the foundation of the town.

In 1310, as Philip of Anjou, Prince of Taranto, was hunting in the foreſts, which then covered the face of the country, a ſtag was driven into a grotto, where the huntſmen diſcovered this wonder-working image. It was removed with great ſolemnity to a chapel; and, in order to encourage people to ſettle round it for its defence, Philip granted lands to all comers, with ten years exemption from taxes; and, as a pledge of the ſincerity of his intentions, named the colony *Francavilla*, or Free-town; and gave it an olive tree, the emblem of peace and fertility, for its armorial ſeal.

The

The number of theſe devout paintings extant in the Neapolitan dominions, and ſaid by their legends to have been accidentally diſcovered in caverns, woods, or wells, need not ſurpriſe us, if we recollect that the Saracens frequently over-ran theſe provinces. On the approach of the Barbarians, it is natural to ſuppoſe that the Greeks, who were undoubtedly the painters of ſuch portraits, would hide what was moſt precious to them, and moſt obnoxious to the inſults of the infidels. The hiding-places were forgotten, either from the long reſidence of the invaders in the kingdom, or the deſtruction of thoſe who ſecreted the holy treaſures.

The Prince's manſion is a quadrangular caſtle, ſurrounded by a dry ditch. The apartments are ſpacious; but, as the owner has been abſent above fourteen years, every thing wears the face of neglect and decadency.

This and the adjoining manors were purchaſed, about the middle of the ſixteenth century, by the Imperiali of Genoa, from St. Charles Bor-

Borromeo, archbiſhop of Milan; who, if we may believe his biographers, diſtributed in one day the whole purchaſe-money to the poor of his dioceſe, at that time afflicted with the joint ſcourges of peſtilence and famine.

The Marquis of Oria, grandfather to the preſent proprietor, reſided conſtantly on his eſtate; and being an adept in rural œconomy, managed all his concerns himſelf, received his rents in kind, and, by his great ſkill in diſpoſing of his commodities to advantage, made every article turn to account. At preſent, very little remains unlet; the rents are paid as the crops are got in and ſold, not at ſtated days of payment. All tythes belong to the Lord of the Manor, who is the lay impropriator; for the Church has only its glebe. Many gentlemen of a ſecondary rank hold their lands of the Prince, as under-tenants, by the payment of a fixed fine for their inveſtiture, nearly in the ſame manner as our copyholders make ſurrenders, and hold eſtates by copy of court-roll.

There

There are beſides many owners of land, not of noble degree, who pay the tenth of all their crops to the Prince.

After my walk, I ſat down to a pompous repaſt; but as the cook, who was never very ſkilful in his profeſſion, and had been twenty years retired upon half-pay, choſe to exert all his abilities on ſo grand an occaſion, it was ſcarcely poſſible to get down any of his ragouts, and out of the reach of all gueſſing to name a ſingle diſh. I could not prevail on Don Domenico, or any of my company, to partake of the feaſt; ſo that I ſat, like Governor Sancho, ſurrounded by all my officers, doctor, ſteward, chaplain, and muſicians. In one point my caſe differed from that of the 'ſquire errant; for the phyſician, inſtead of conjuring away the plates, was very attentive in recommending and preſſing me to eat of every diſh, though I obſerved he durſt not venture to fix a name upon any one of them.

After

After this long and tireſome meal, I was left to take my afternoon nap, and in the evening entertained with the tragedy of Judith and Holofernes, acted by the young people of the town, in a theatre belonging to the caſtle. Their rude accent, forced geſtures, and ſtrange blunders in language, rendered their diſmal drama a complete farce. When the heroine murdered the general, the whole houſe ſhook with thundering burſts of applauſe; the upper part of his body was hidden by the ſide ſcenes; the lower parts lay on a couch upon the ſtage, and in the agonies of death were thrown into ſuch convulſions, kickings, and writhings, as melted the hearts and raviſhed the ſouls of the attentive audience. Judith then came forward, and repeated a long monologue, with her ſword in one hand, and a barber's block, dripping with blood, in the other. Never was tragedy-queen ſent off the ſtage with louder or more ſincere acclamations.

SECTION XXVIII.

May 2d. I TOOK a ride to Oria, a city romantically ſituated upon three hills, in the centre of the plains. The caſtle and cathedral ſtand boldly on the higheſt points. This is a place of great antiquity, a colony of Cretans; on its coins a minotaur *. Servilius, an officer of Octavius Cæſar, was here ſurpriſed by Mark Antony. In the lower ages it became part of the rich patrimony of the Baux. The Bonifazii were afterwards poſſeſſed of Oria; but about the year 1540 the laſt male heir of the family renounced his country and fortune with his religion, and retired to Geneva. The

* Nummi Hyrinæorum.

ARG. 1. Cap. Palladis gal. noctua.=Minotaurus gradiens ΥΡΙΝΑΙ.

2. Cap. Pallad=Minotaurus ΙΑΝΙΔΥ.

3. Facies plena imb.=Minotaurus ΑΝΙΔΥ.

cauſe

cauſe of this renunciation was the ſhameleſs conduct of his ſiſters, who, by living in public concubinage with the Viceroy and the Nuncio, brought diſgrace upon their brother. The Marquiſate now belongs to the Prince of Francavilla.

I continued my ride a few miles ſouth, to another eſtate of the Imperiali, called Caſalnuovo, through an open country, abounding with corn and cotton, prettily divided by rows of olive and almond trees. The cotton was juſt coming up, with two yawning lobes, exactly like the cotyledones of the common bean. It is of the ſhrubby kind, and, when full grown, reſembles the raſpberry plant. The pods of cotton are at top, and, when ripe, burſt and diſcloſe a tuft of down, the wings deſtined to convey the ſeed through the air. The land intended for this crop is very neatly dreſt, and laid down in flat narrow ridges: the ſeaſon for ploughing, between January and April. The cotton is then ſown; and, as ſoon as the ſhoots

appear, the field is hoed, and weeded with a ſmall mattock. After a crop of cotton, it is uſual to take one of wheat, then one of barley or oats; afterwards the land is ſuffered to lie fallow, or is uſed as a paſture for ſheep during twelve months, and the enſuing year it is again fit for cotton. Theſe grounds are tilled in partnerſhip: the proprietor ploughs it the firſt time; the tenant gives it four ſubſequent ploughings, and furniſhes ſeed; the expence of the harveſt is borne equally by both, and the profits halved between them. Hoers earn a carlino a day; and a good ploughman four carlini, or five grana and his victuals.

Caſalnuovo is a conſiderable town, without any buildings of note, except a large baronial manſion in the centre, begun by the late Marquis, and left unfiniſhed at his death. The ſuite of apartments is grand; but the ſituation uncomfortable, without garden or proſpect. He choſe to remove to this place, becauſe the rocky ſoil affords a ſolid foundation for a houſe,

and

and the air is remarkably wholeſome; whereas Francavilla is the very reverſe, being built on a marſhy, unſound ſoil, where it is even difficult to find a bottom, and all the water has a brackiſh taſte.

This town contains about four thouſand inhabitants, noted for nothing but their taſte for dog's fleſh; in which they have no competitors that I know of, except their neighbours at Lecce, and the newly-diſcovered voluptuaries of Otaheite. We did not ſee one animal of the canine ſpecies in the ſtreets; and woe be to the poor cur that follows its maſter into this cannibal ſettlement! I could not prevail upon my conductor to own whether they had any flocks of puppies, as of ſheep; or took any pains, by caſtration or particular food, to fatten and ſweeten the dainty before they brought it to the ſhambles. I have ſince procured ſome information on the ſubject from impartial perſons, and find that the people of this neighbourhood are looked upon by the reſt of the

kingdom as dog-eaters; and that it is certain that, both at Lecce and Caſalnuovo, many of the lower ſort reliſh a ſlice of a well-fed cur *. At both places tanners kidnap dogs, and tan their hides into an imitation of Turkey leather, with which they ſupply the gentlemen of the neighbouring cities, who are nice in their ſlippers. This demand for falſe Morocco occaſions the ſlaughter of many dogs, and no doubt the cuſtom of eating their fleſh began among the needy tanners: hunger and experience have taught their countrymen to conſider the diſcovery as a very beneficial one. At Bari and Francavilla, horſe-fleſh is ſaid to be publicly ſold in the market: and the tail left on, to

* "At Caſalnuovo we had a confirmation of what you "mention concerning the inhabitants of that village eating "dog's fleſh; for one of our guards had a dog with him, "which was immediately ſtolen; and when I miſſed and "enquired for the dog the next day, the guard told me, "that thoſe curſed dog-eaters had got him. At Gallipoli "I was aſſured that there was no doubt of the fact."

Extract of a letter from Sir W. Hamilton, 1789.

ſhew

ſhew the wretched purchaſers what beaſt the meat belonged to. The wits among the populace nickname theſe ſhamble horſes *Caprio ferrato*, i. e. a ſhod Deer.

The Bailiff of the Manor informed me, that it contained ſix convents of men and two of women; and that the Belles Lettres flouriſhed extraordinarily; for, beſides himſelf, he could reckon up twelve men of great learning in the place, who formed an academy; viz. two doctors of phyſic, two apothecaries, and eight men of the law. A tremendous junto for the poor Dog-eaters! There is neither trade nor manufactures here; the fruits of the earth are conſumed on the ſpot: if any remain above the conſumption, they are ſent to Taranto for ſale.

On this ſite ſtood Manduria, a city of the Tarentines, deſtroyed by Fabius Maximus in the ſecond Punic war. Its coins are ſaid to have been dug up lately, but I never ſaw any; traces of the old name exiſt in ſome fields called Il Campo Mandurino, and in a chapel dedicated

to St. Pietro Mandurino. The Caſalnuovians being deſirous of reſuming the original appellation, have lately petitioned the King for leave to quit the name of Caſalnuovo, and to take that of Manduria in all public deeds.

At a ſmall diſtance from the town, the old walls are very diſcernible, raiſed ſeveral feet above the ground; they are double, except on the ſouth ſide, where the fortifications appear to have been left incomplete. The outer wall and its ditch meaſure eight yards in breadth; behind this bulwark is a broad ſtreet, and then an inner wall, which together meaſure fourteen yards. The ſtones are oblong, laid in courſes without mortar, and cut out of the ditch; the rocky ſtratum, which comes to the ſurface with very little covering of mould, is a concretion of ſea-ſand and ſhells: theſe exuviæ of marine bodies, when decompoſed by the action of the atmoſphere, are converted into a moſt fertile ſoil. It is truly wonderful that ſuch fruitfulneſs ſhould exiſt in a country to all outward appearance as deſtitute of water as Arabia Petræa.

The

The greateſt curioſity here is a well, mentioned by Pliny in his ſecond Book *. In a field within the ancient incloſure, we deſcended ſeveral ſteps into a large circular cavern, lighted from above by a ſpacious aperture; the water comes from the north-weſt, and may be heard very diſtinctly under the rock; it iſſues out with force, and after running along a ſhort channel, loſes itſelf in a round baſon by ſome ſubterraneous conduits. What excites the admiration of the neighbours, as it did that of their forefathers, is, that at no time the water ever riſes or falls above a certain mark; if you throw in as much rubbiſh as will fill it half-way up, this acceſſion will nevertheleſs have no effect upon the level; even ſhould you heap up the dirt above the mark, the water will not riſe, but remain totally hidden; clear away the mud to the bottom, you will come to a hard ſmooth floor, without any ſigns of a chaſm for the water

* Juxta oppidum Manduriam lacus ad margines plenus, neque exhauſtis aquis minuitur, neque infuſis augetur.

to

to run off by. As too much curiosity, if indulged in examining the construction of this well, might endanger the loss of the only supply of good drinking-water in the township, all experiments and removals are strictly forbidden. The rock is of a very porous nature, and the water carried off by a quick filtration: as the stream is no doubt formed by the overflowings of some underground lake or river coming from the vast reservoirs in the bosom of the Apennines, and has other passages for its discharge, the well is probably filled with the back-water only, and therefore the dirt thrown in must of course prevent the water from entering the bason *.

* These estates have since escheated to the Crown, by the death of Michael Imperiali, Prince of Francavilla, without heirs. No collateral heir beyond the third degree of consanguinity is capable of inheriting a fief in the kingdom of Naples.

TARANTO,

TARANTO, and its ENVIRONS.

SECTION XXIX.

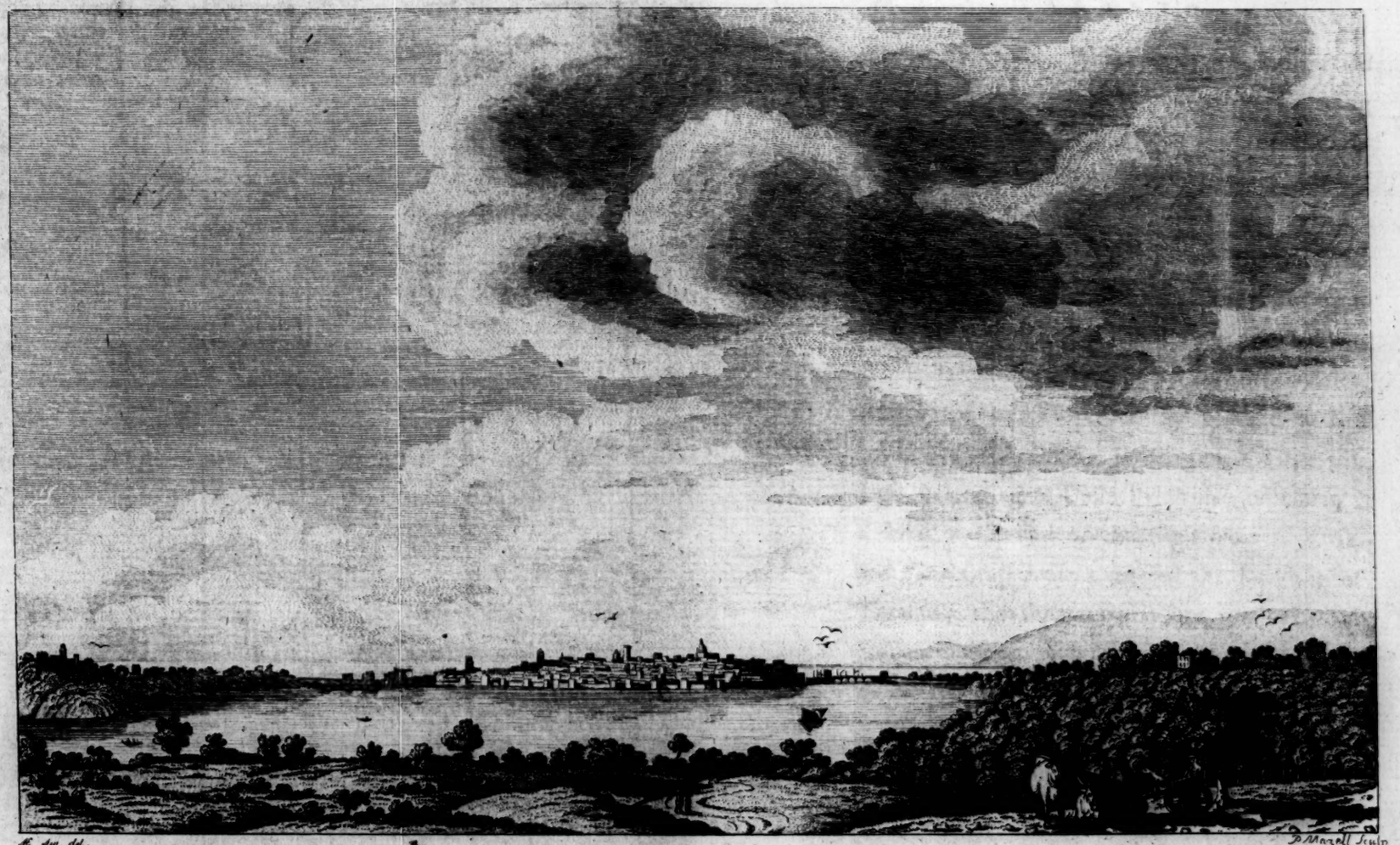
May 3d. I LEFT Francavilla, eſcorted by four well-mounted and well-armed guards in the Prince's pay. Every great Baron * keeps a certain number of truſty determined fellows to protect his vaſſals, convoy his rents, and prevent depredations on his game and foreſts; they travel by the ſide of his coach to defend his perſon and baggage; but as I was

* Our old Engliſh Barons had their Rod-knights or Radmen, who held lands of them on the condition of attending their perſons in their travels, and going whereſoever they pleaſed to ſend them.

under

under no apprehenſion of an attack, I diſmiſſed theſe attendants as ſoon as poſſible; and ſending the ſervants on to Taranto to prepare my reception, ſauntered ſlowly after them, that I might enjoy the pure morning-breeze, and examine the country. Near Francavilla the ſoil is deep, and cultivated with ſome degree of neatneſs; but I ſaw neither ſpring nor rivulet. Theſe farms are bounded by extenſive waſtes, where the rocks are ſcantily covered with a moſſy ſwarth. At Le Grottaglie, a large village belonging to Cicinelli Prince of Curſi, I arrived at the end of the high plain of Oria, and by a ſteep deſcent entered the low one of Taranto; the ſeparation is not gradual, but ſuddenly made by a barrier of perpendicular rocks, that run from the mountains quite acroſs to the gulf. Le Grottaglie owes its origin to a concourſe of inhabitants from many towns and villages laid in aſhes by the Saracens; finding no other place of ſafety, the fugitives took refuge in theſe grottos and caverns, and

by



R. Sw. del.

D. Mazell Sculp.

The CITY of TARANTO Anc.t TARENTUM from the NORTH SHORE of the MAREPICCOLO.

~ Site of the Ancient City. ~ Present Town. ~~ Bridge & Aqueduct. ~~~ Mountains of Basilicata.

by degrees recovering from their diſmay, ventured out and built dwellings above-ground. By one of thoſe monſtrous contradictions, of which the feudal ſyſtem of Naples affords many examples, the criminal juriſdiction of this lordſhip appertains to the Archbiſhop of Taranto, while the civil is veſted in its Prince. The people of this town are ſaid to underſtand the buſineſs of a ſhepherd better than any of their neighbours, among whom their cream-cheeſes are in great repute. The country abounds in corn and wine; but of late years they have treated their vines with ſo little care, that the wine is quite fallen in the public eſteem. They make pottery-ware of a red colour, like that of the antique cups; but they fail in the art of tempering the clay, nor can they attain the ſame degree of lightneſs and tranſparency. After riding through a fine tract of orchards, I came in ſight of the Mare Piccolo, or Little Sea, beyond which riſes the city of Taranto: the banks that incloſe the bay are ſo gently ſloped off as

to

to create no very ſtriking effect; there is a tameneſs in the proſpect not unlike the inſipidity of the artificial lakes and elegant ſwells in our faſhionable gardens in England, totally different from the bold beauties of Italian landſcape. The country leading down to its verge is wild, but agreeable; a ſhallow ſoil and moſſy turf, covered in many places with tufts of aromatic ſhrubs, and clumps of Carob trees that appear to be indigenous. Through this heath runs the Cervaro, a ſmall brook of whitiſh water, that falls into the bay at the north-eaſt corner, believed by ſome authors to be the Galeſus, becauſe it correſponds with the diſtance of five miles from Taranto aſſigned by Polybius: an additional proof might be alledged in the epithet *white*, given to the Galeſus by Martial, as agreeing with the preſent ſtate of the rivulet, the waters of which are ſtrongly tinged with the chalky or marly particles of the ſoil it runs over: this ſoapy quality may be ſuppoſed to have rendered them

pecu-

peculiarly efficacious in purifying and bleaching the fleeces that were waſhed in them. When Virgil applied the diſtinctive term *Niger* * to this ſtream, he is thought to have alluded to the thick pine-groves that then ſhaded its banks. Propertius, by the following lines addreſſed to the Mantuan bard,

Tu canis umbroſi ſubter pineta Galeſi
Thyrſin et attritis Daphnin arundinibus †,

ſeems to inſinuate, that Virgil compoſed his Eclogues at Tarentum, or in ſome neighbouring villa: perhaps the ſame, where he ſays, he took leſſons of agriculture from Corycius the Illyrian pirate, tranſported by Pompey to theſe vallies.

Namque ſub Oebaliæ memini me turribus altis,
Quâ niger humectat flaventia culta Galeſus
Corycium vidiſſe ſenem ‡.

* Some commentators read *Piger*.

† Thou ſingeſt, under the pine-groves of ſhady Galeſus, the loves of Thyrſis and Daphnis on thy ſmooth reeds.

‡ For I remember to have ſeen the aged Corycius near the lofty towers of Æbalia, where dark Galeſus waters the yellow fields.

Whilſt

Whilſt I was combining the foregoing circumſtances in my mind, and endeavouring to ſatisfy myſelf that I was then actually ſtanding on the banks of ſo celebrated a river, an aged ſhepherd came up with his flock, and freely entered into converſation: I was glad of an opportunity of learning ſome particulars concerning the Tarentine ſheep, and the commonly received opinion that no white ones would now live in theſe paſtures, becauſe they ſoon would poiſon themſelves with the leaves of the *fumolo* (a ſpecies of *hypericum criſpum*, or St. John's wort of Linnæus's *polyadelphia polyandria*), though black ſheep may browze upon it with ſafety; for this reaſon, it is ſaid, no white ſheep are to be ſeen in the flocks, and no wool but of a black or dark brown colour. The old man ſmiled at my queſtions, and pointing to many white ewes in his ſtock, anſwered, that it was not in conſequence of its colour, but of its ſpecies, that the animal ſuffered from thoſe noxious herbs; the *pecore gentili*, or delicate race of ſheep, are ſo much more

more liable to periſh by theſe and other accidents, than the *pecore moſcie*, or *carfagne*, a wilder and coarſer breed, that the former kind is almoſt deſtroyed.

To explain this matter ſatisfactorily, it is neceſſary I ſhould enlarge upon the ſubject, and re-capitulate what we read of the flocks of the ancient Tarentines; the attempts made in latter times to revive the credit of the Puglian wool, with the cauſes which have defeated the intention, and rendered the ſcheme abortive. Columella informs us, that the Tarentines croſſed their delicate breed with fierce foreign rams of a beautiful tawny colour, and that the fleece of their lambs had the ſtrong gloſſy hue of the fire, with the downy ſilkneſs of the dam. To increaſe this luſtre and ſoftneſs, they uſed to buckle round the ſheep a ſort of leathern coat, which they took off occaſionally, leſt the beaſt ſhould ſuffer from exceſſive heat; then bathed and ſoaked the wool in wine and oil, till it was quite ſaturated with the rich fomentation. Before

ſhearing-time, the ſheep were waſhed in the Galeſus, and at all ſeaſons penned up in clean folds, and kept free from filth; they were never led out to feed till the ſun had dried up the dew, as the ſpirting of the drops from the graſs was apt to give them ſore eyes. This proceſs, and the ſilence of the ancients concerning any particular whiteneſs in the wool of Tarentum, prove how much Sannazar, and other moderns, have confounded times and ideas, in praiſing it merely for its milky hue. The darkneſs of colour was by no means a hindrance to the imbibition of a deep purple dye, which was the tint moſt eſteemed by the Tarentines.

After the fall of Rome, a long train of wars and devaſtation deprived this country of all its acquired advantages, and even operated ſo direfully upon its climate and productions, as to vitiate thoſe it held of the bounty of nature. When the manufacturers as well as manufactures were deſtroyed, the prime commodities of courſe loſt their value, and it ceaſed to be worth

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the ſhepherd's while, even had the nicer arts of his calling been handed down to him, to take any pains in preſerving a purity of blood, or delicacy of covering in his breed of ſheep; thoſe perfections had no longer any admirers or chapmen, and conſequently the race very ſoon degenerated.

Frederick of Suabia took ſome ſteps towards retrieving this branch of traffick; but the misfortunes of his family rendered all thoſe projects viſionary. The introduction of ſilkworms from the Eaſt by King Roger, proved a fatal check to the demand for fine wool; and the heavy load of taxes impoſed upon this commodity by the Angevine Princes, after they had loſt Sicily, completed the deſtruction of the finer breed. On account of their tender conſtitution, they required expenſive houſing and conſtant attendance to make them turn to profit; and therefore the Puglian ſhepherds, being from indigence unable to procure ſuch conveniences, abandoned the delicate race, and attached them-

ſelves to a rougher variety, which are generally black or brown, hardy, and able to feed with impunity on many plants and ſpecies of graſs that blind and weaken, if not poiſon, the *pecore gentili*.

The breed was ſo debaſed in the fifteenth century, and the farmers reduced to ſuch miſery, that Joan the Second choſe rather to remit the taxes laid upon wool by her brother, than attempt any method of amelioration, for which ſhe wanted both ſkill and ſteadineſs.

Alphonſus the Firſt, who had greater views, and was bleſt with more peace and leiſure than his predeceſſor, reſolved to procure for his Neapolitan dominions ſome of the ſubſtantial advantages which his kingdom of Aragon had experienced from an improved breed of ſheep, ſent as a preſent to one of his anceſtors from a King of England. To obtain this end, he cauſed a proper number of ewes and rams, the progeny of thoſe Engliſh ſheep, to be tranſported into Puglia. Ferdinand the Firſt,

ambitious

ambitious of ſupporting his father's ſyſtem, encouraged the woollen manufacture, by inviting workmen from all foreign parts where that trade flouriſhed: but the duties impoſed by theſe two Kings produced ultimately very pernicious effects; for they lay heavy upon the poorer claſs of farmers, and the ſale of wool was not ſufficient to indemnify them for loſſes ſuſtained by bad years and accidents. The oppreſſions of needy and ignorant Viceroys, who were obliged to anticipate and mortgage every revenue to ſupply the continual demands of the Spaniſh miniſtry, increaſed the evil to ſuch a height, that at laſt the white breed was entirely forſaken, and at this day the number of *pecore gentili* is extremely inconſiderable within the diſtrict of Taranto. Very little nicety is now obſerved in the choice of rams, or in proper croſſes, by which means the wool is not ſo fine as it might be, though it be ſtill of a good quality. Better management and employment of the raw materials at home, might create an inexhauſtible

fund of wealth for the ſtate. The fleſh of the *pecore gentili* is more flabby, ſtringy, taſteleſs, and therefore cheaper, than that of the *moſcia*; and there is a penalty upon any butcher that ſhall paſs off the mutton of the former for that of the latter.

SECTION XXX.

SOON after I left the ſhepherd, I paſſed near ſome rubbiſh which antiquaries call a remnant of the wall of the Japygians. It was forty miles long, and erected by that ancient people from ſea to ſea, in order to divide their territories from thoſe of the Meſſapians. I next reached a delicious vale, called Le Citrezze *, where a ſtream riſes in a baſon about three

* The Tarentines call this the Galeſus; D'Anville and Zannoni give that name to a river that diſcharges itſelf into the Mare Grand. The ſpring of the Citrezze is deep,

three hundred yards from the ſea. The waters occaſion a perpetual verdure in the meadows, and groves of aged olive-trees defend them from the ſcorching ray, and from all winds but the ſoft zephyrs that play upon the ſurface of the Mare Piccolo. I alighted to enjoy the charms of this ſweet ſequeſtered ſpot; and while my eyes ranged over the beautiful landſcape, ſuffered my imagination to wander into a chain of melancholy reflexions on the general viciſſitudes in the fate of empires, and on the deſtiny of Taranto in particular. All was then ſtill in that port, where the trading veſſels of half the world rendezvouſed. One ſingle fiſhing boat diſturbed the boſom of thoſe waters, where the mighty

deep, and therefore anſwers Virgil's epithet of black. The very little extent of its courſe correſponds with the ancient opinion of its being the ſhorteſt of all rivers; but ſtill I cannot underſtand how ſo trifling a rill could be deemed a river, and be called Eurotas by the Parthenii from its reſemblance to the river of Lacedemon; or how numerous flocks could wander on its banks, and be waſhed in its waters.

navy of Carthage once diſplayed its flag. Of all the temples, gymnaſia, theatres, and other monuments of glory and opulence, not ſo much as a ſingle column riſes upon the hill where Tarentum once ſtood: the paltry buildings of ſome mean convents, inhabited by the moſt inſignificant of friars, mark its ancient ſituation; while the modern city, crowded into a narrow iſland, holds the place of the old citadel, and ſtill reſembles a fortreſs more than an emporium of trade. But, in deſpite of this change in its fortunes, the appearance of Taranto is replete with wonderful beauties. At my feet, the Mare Piccolo rolled its gentle waves, ſtretching from eaſt to weſt, in the ſhape of an oval lake, divided into two unequal bays by a narrow promontory; olive-woods clothe the fore-ground on both ſides, and the oppoſite hills appear rich in orchards and corn-fields. Over the city, the Mare Grande, or outer port, ſome ſhips at anchor, iſlands, capes; and behind, all the blue mountains of Baſilicata complete the proſpect.

A long

A long bridge of ſeven arches joins the city to the continent on the north ſide; through them the tide flows with great impetuoſity, and nothing now but ſmall boats can be admitted by this paſſage, which was formerly the entrance of the harbour. But even in the time of the Romans, I think it evident from what Appian ſays, that there were drawbridges, by which the garriſon of the citadel preſerved a command over the veſſels in port. Had the mouth been quite free, the Tarentine fleet in the ſecond Punic war could not have been ſo completely blocked up, as to render all attempts to break through utterly fruitleſs. At each arch is fixed a frame for hanging nets to intercept fiſh as they run up into the little ſea with the flow, or fall back with the ebb; and upon this bridge is carried the aqueduct that ſupplies the town with water.

Tolita King of the Goths is ſaid to have been the firſt that erected an aqueduct on this north ſide: others attribute it to the Emperor Nicephorus.

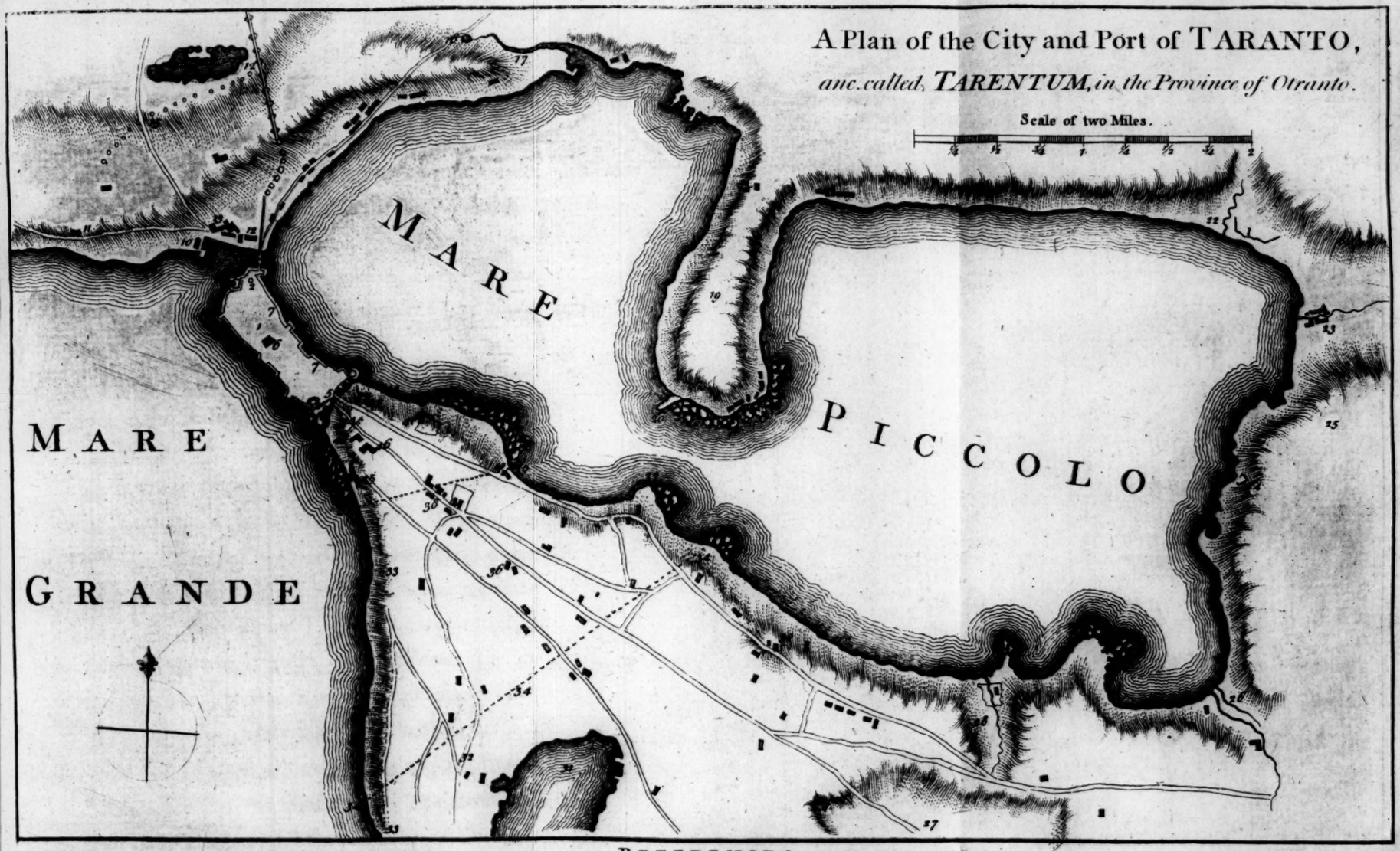
phorus. It was built in the preſent form and direction in 1543. The ſources lie twelve miles diſtant from Taranto in the mountains of Martina, where many grooves and cuts in the heart of the rock collect the ſtraggling rills and filtrations, and bring them together at a ſpot called Valdenza; from thence the waters run to Triglio, where they fall into immenſe reſervoirs, and then paſs under ground to the deep ciſterns at Tremiti. At La Follia they riſe to day, and keep an open courſe for ſeven miles, till they enter an arcade of two hundred and three arches in very bad repair, overgrown with ivy, and oozing at every joint: the water is conveyed through hollow ſtones, each of which has a ſpout that fits into the next.

The ſhape of Taranto has been likened to that of a ſhip; of which the caſtle at the eaſt end repreſents the ſtern, the great church the maſt, the tower of Raymund Orſini the bowſprit, and the bridge the cable. It ſtands upon the ſite of the ancient fortreſs, but I believe occupies

A Plan of the City and Port of TARANTO,

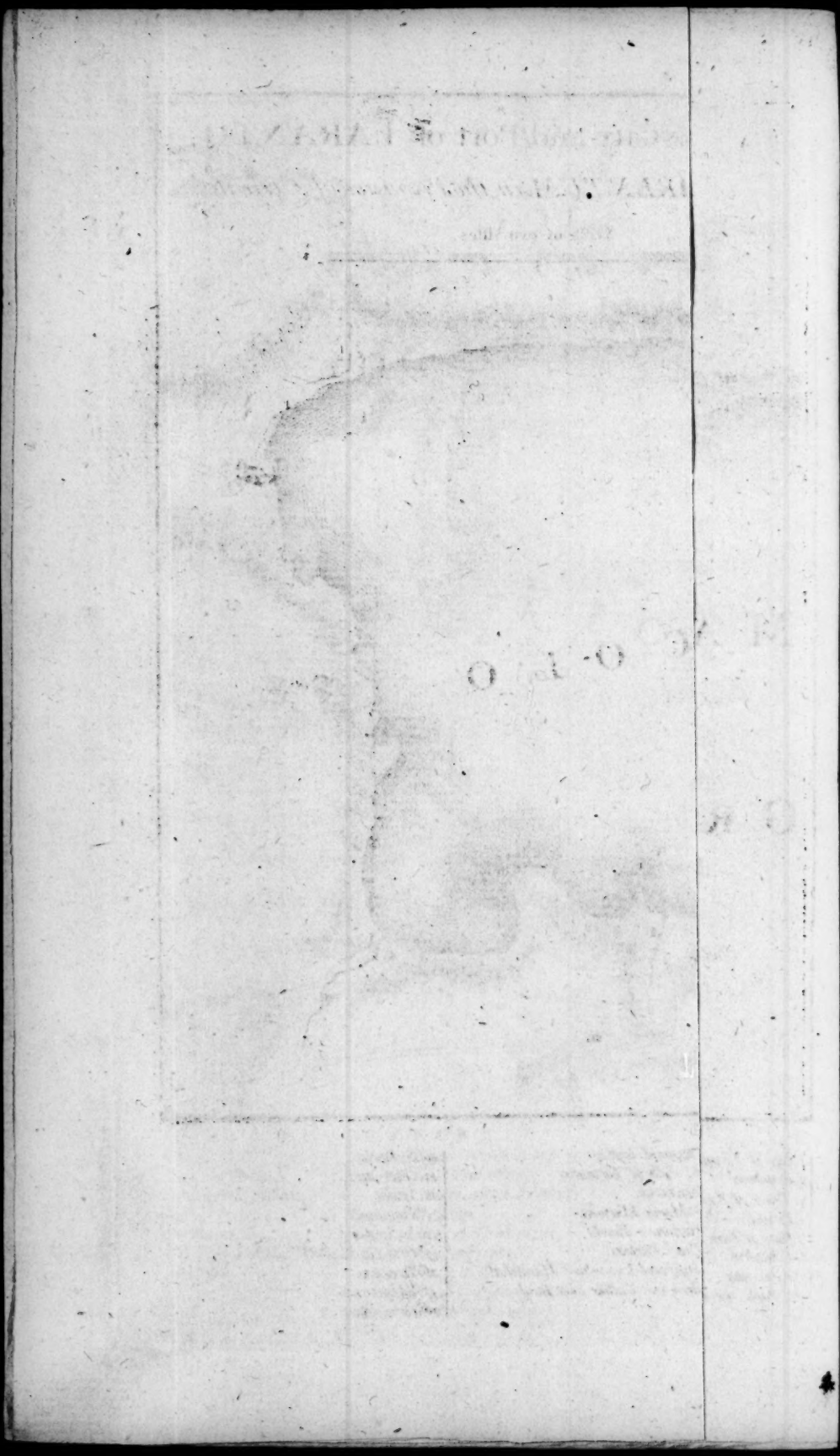
anc. called, TARENTUM, in the Province of Otranto.

Scale of two Miles.



REFERENCES.

1. City of Taranto
2. Fountain
3. Tower of Raymond Orsino
4. Citadel
5. Gate of Leue
6. Cathedral
7. Lamarina
8. Il Vasto, the ditch opened in 1755
9. Gate of Naples, and Bridge
10. Lazaretto
11. Capuchins
12. Aqueduct
13. Magazines
14. Pond
15. Old Aqueduct
16. Vale of Citrezze
17. Stream called by some, the Galesus
18. Il Ciavello
19. Promontory of Penna
20. Point of Penne & old bridge
21. Le case
22. Canal of Leverano
23. Cervaro brook, & fulling Mill
24. Caves of Diulo
25. Il piano
26. Raria brook & fulling Mill
27. La Paludarbara
28. Stream called Ponticello
29. Il fronte
30. Erto di Cicalone
31. La Salinella
32. Road of Trullo
33. Road to Montegranaro and ruined aqueduct
34. Supposed line of the walls of Tarentum
35. Pierchizuli
36. S. Maria Murivata
37. Pizzone e Pierchi
38. Padri Parlette
39. Supposed line where Hannibal drew his Gallics over land
40. S. Lucia
41. Osservanti
42. Scioli
43. Pontanelle
44. Le statue
45. Orti Carducci
46. Teresiani
47. Alcantarini
48. Carmelitani



occupies rather more room :—it was formerly joined to the continent by a narrow neck of ſand, which occaſioned William of Puglia to ſay, That Tarentum would be an iſland, but for a ſmall riſing ground.

Inſula mox fieret modicus ni collis adeſſet.

Ferdinand the Firſt, being apprehenſive of an attack from the Turks, ordered the iſthmus to be cut through, and the ſea to be let in. Philip the Second cauſed the paſſage to be widened and deepened ſo as to admit veſſels; but it was afterwards choked up with ſand and filth, and, by the ſtagnation of its waters, became a great nuiſance. The air of Taranto was grievouſly affected by it till 1755, when it was again cleared out by the King's directions. The ſtreets are remarkably dirty and narrow, eſpecially the Marina, which runs along the Mare Piccolo, and is, without diſpute, the moſt diſguſtful habitation of human beings in Europe, except, perhaps, the Jewiſh Ghetto at Rome.

The

The only tolerable ſtreet is a terrace above the ſteep rocks that hang over the Mare Grande, and prevent all acceſs on that quarter. The cathedral, dedicated to Saint Cataldus, whom the Legend calls a native of Raphoe in Ireland, has little merit: it is a melancholy conſideration, that the chapel of the patron has been decorated at the expence of almoſt every monument of the ancient city. The granite columns, taken from its ruinated fanes, are aukwardly crowded under the ill-proportioned roof of this church. The ſquare near the bridge is the only opening of any extent, and the general reſort of the citizens in ſummer, when they ſit round the fountain to enjoy the ſoft evening breeze, and refreſh themſelves with the fanning of the balmy air. But modern Taranto cannot boaſt of that degree of ſalubrity at all ſeaſons, which rendered the ancient city the delight of voluptuaries and valetudinarians. A failure of cultivation, and of attention towards keeping the paſſages for water free, cauſes ſome degree of malignity in its

its climate during the hot months; but there is great reaſon to hope theſe inconveniencies will be removed by the patriotic and judicious endeavours of the preſent Archbiſhop Monſignor Joſeph Capecelatro, who has abandoned the road that leads to the purple, and other objects of eccleſiaſtical ambition, in order to devote his life and talents to the welfare of his flock, and the improvement of his native country.

I was lodged at the Celeſtine convent, a neat houſe, built upon the ruins of a temple. The Prior received me with great politeneſs, and at ſupper treated me with the moſt varied ſervice of ſhell-fiſh I ever ſat down to. There were no leſs than fifteen ſorts, all extremely fat and ſavoury; eſpecially a ſmall ſpecies of muſcle, the ſhell of which is covered with a velvet ſhag, and both inſide and outſide is tinged with the richeſt violet colour. I taſted of all, and ate plentifully of ſeveral ſorts, without experiencing the leaſt difficulty in the digeſtion.

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SECTION XXXI.

THE day no ſooner appeared than my impatience hurried me out of the Porta di Lecce to examine the ruins of Tarentum, a city ſo often the ſubject of my moſt favourite reading, and ſo truly intereſting by its glory and misfortunes. Not to leave any part unobſerved for want of method, I directed my ſteps along the ſhore of the Mare Grande, which gradually draws off to the ſouth, towards Cape San Vito. The ſlight remains of an amphitheatre did not detain me long, as the *opus reticulatum* proved it to be Roman work; and at that moment my enthuſiaſm was all directed towards monuments raiſed by the Tarentines, while they were a free Grecian ſtate, not thoſe they erected in ſervile compliance with the ſanguinary taſte of their conquerors. In vain did I run over fields and gardens, and examine with nice attention

tention every ſtone that had any thing of the venerable appearance of antique workmanſhip; to my utter aſtoniſhment, not a ſingle ruin occurred, ſcarce a mark was left that ſuch a city ever exiſted on the ſpot! Never was a place more completely ſwept off the face of the earth than Tarentum. Its ſplendid annals need be as well authenticated as they are by hiſtorians, who had ocular or at leaſt circumſtantial evidence of its exiſtence, for us to believe that a rival of Rome once raiſed her proud towers, and arrayed her numerous armies, along theſe now loneſome hills. About two miles and a half from the gate, I diſcovered veſtiges of aqueducts, and had ſome reaſon to think I had found the point where the city-wall made a returning angle, and croſſed the iſthmus in a north-weſt direction, in order to join the Mare Piccolo, leaving an incloſure within, of the form of an equilateral triangle. But, as even ruins were wanting to aſſiſt me in my ſearch, it was impoſſible for me to determine the extent

with

with any degree of certainty. The hints given in the writings of ancient hiſtorians are too vague to lead us with any preciſion to the true topography of the place.

I returned to town by the banks of the Mare Piccolo, a pleaſant walk, and moſt delightful view.

Near the Alcanterine convent is a ſmall hillock, wholly formed of the ſhells of fiſh employed by the ancients in the compoſition of their celebrated purple dye; and not far from it are the remains of ſome reſervoirs and conduits appertaining to the works. My readers may not be ſorry to meet with a deſcription of the teſtaceous fiſhes that furniſhed the precious ingredient, and of the methods uſed in extracting and preparing it, taken from the accounts extant in the claſſic authors, and the diſſertations of modern naturaliſts.

Purple was procured from two ſorts of ſhellfiſh, the Murex and the Purpura, both belonging

longing to the Teſtacea, or third genus of Linnæus's ſixth claſs.

From the former a dark blue colour was obtained; the latter gave a brighter tint, approaching to ſcarlet. The body of the animals that inhabit theſe ſhells, conſiſts of three parts. The loweſt, containing the bowels, remains fixed in the twiſted ſcrew at the bottom, for the purpoſe of performing the digeſtive functions: it is fleſhy, and tinged with the colour of its food. The middle diviſion is of a callous ſubſtance, and full of liquor, which, if let out of its bag, will ſtain the whole animal and its habitation. The third and upper part is made up of the members neceſſary for procuring food, and perpetuating the race. The Murex generally remains faſtened to rocks and ſtones. The Purpura, being a fiſh of prey, is by nature a rover, and one of the moſt voracious inhabitants of the deep. The proper ſeaſon for dragging for this ſhell-fiſh was in autumn and winter. To come at the liquor, the ſhell was

broken with one ſmart blow, and the pouch extracted, with the greateſt nicety, by means of a hook. If the ſhells were of a ſmall ſize, they were thrown by heaps into a mill, and pounded.

The veins being laid in a ciſtern, ſalt was ſtrewed over them, to cauſe them to purge and keep ſweet, in the proportion of twenty ounces of ſalt to a hundred pounds of fiſh. They were thus macerated for three days; after which the mucilage was drawn off into a leaden cauldron, in order that the colours, by being heated therein, might acquire additional luſtre and vivacity, as all marine acids do by a mixture with that metal. To keep the veſſel from melting, eighteen pounds of water were added to a hundred and fifty pounds of purple, and the heat given horizontally to the kettle, by means of a flue brought from a furnace. By this proceſs, the fleſhy particles were carried off, and the liquor left pure, after about ten days ſettling.

The

The dye was tried by dipping locks of wool in it, till they had imbibed a dark blue colour. As the colour of the Murex would not ſtand alone, the dyers always mixed a proportion of Purpura juice with it. They ſteeped the wool for five hours; then ſhook, dried, and carded it; dipped it again and again, till it was ſaturated with the dye. The proportion requiſite for ſtaining fifty pounds of wool with the fineſt deep amethyſt colour, were twenty pounds of Murex to a hundred and ten of Purpura. To produce the Tyrian purple, which reſembled the colour of congealed blood, it was neceſſary firſt to ſteep the wool in pure unboiled Purpura juice, and then let it lie and ſimmer with that of the Murex. By different mixtures of thoſe two dyes, varieties were obtained, according to the changes of faſhion, which ran into violet till the reign of Auguſtus, when it inclined to the Tarentine ſcarlet; and this ſoon after made way for the Diabaſa Tyria, the moſt extravagantly dear of all the tints. We read of fleeces being

dyed upon the backs of the ſheep; but remain in the dark as to the method and advantages of that proceſs.

The Greeks, who were never at a loſs for an ingenious fable to cover their ignorance of origins and cauſes, attributed the diſcovery of purple to the dog of Hercules, which, in a range along the ſhore, met with a ſhell-fiſh, and greedily cruſhed it between its teeth. Inſtantly an indelible purple ſtained its muzzle, and by this accident ſuggeſted the firſt idea of dying cloth. The art was moſt undoubtedly practiſed in times of very remote antiquity. Moſes and Homer mention compound colours: the wife of Alcinous is deſcribed as ſpinning wool tinged with marine purple.

Below the ruins of theſe reſervoirs, the ſhore is thickly ſtrewed with fragments of Etruſcan vaſes, ſimilar in colour and deſign to thoſe depoſited in the cabinets of the curious. Cloſe by this place, the beach is covered with bits of plain red ones. A little nearer the city is the

Argentaria,

Argentaria, a bank ſo called from a tradition of the gold and ſilver ſmiths having had their ſhops there. It ſtill deſerves the name, from a number of medals, rings, chains, and other trinkets, that are conſtantly dug out of it.

SECTION XXXII.

I DEVOTED the afternoon to a water party, taking with me one of the oldeſt and moſt intelligent of the Tarentine fiſhermen, to ſhew me the fiſhing and ſpawning places, and explain the different ſeaſons and methods of catching fiſh. We took boat, and rowed up the ſouthern ſhore of the Mare Piccolo, with an intention of meaſuring the whole circumference, which Strabo fixes at one hundred ſtadia, or twelve Engliſh miles and a half. According to my calculation, the circuit of the weſtern part is not more than half as great as that of the eaſtern one; and both together, by

a rough eſtimate, are about ſixteen miles. This increaſe may be accounted for by the deſtruction of all the parapets and walls of the old city, the wearing away of the banks, and overflowing of the low grounds. A tide is very perceptible, eſpecially when the moon changes, and ſtill more ſo at the ſolſtices and equinoxes; but very feeble in compariſon of the tides in the ocean: however, it ſerves to keep the waters of this land-locked bay ſweet, and to bring in caravans of fiſh, that fatten and breed in its quiet pools. When the Scirocco blows hard, the waves are driven up with great violence, and navigation becomes perilous for ſmall veſſels.

The firſt objects of my curioſity were the beds of Cozzenere, or muſcles, the greateſt and moſt conſtant ſupply of the market. Their ſpawn is dropt in the mud. About the twenty-firſt of March, little muſcles begin to riſe up, and cling to long ſtakes driven by the fiſhermen into the water under the city wall, and in the caſtle ditch. There they thrive and grow

in

in ſtill water, while the waſhings of the ſtreets ſupply them with rich and copious nutriment. In Auguſt they are as big as almonds, and are then drawn up with the poles, and ſown on the oppoſite ſide of the Mare Piccolo, among the freſh-water ſprings.

About the middle of October they are again dragged up, ſeparated, and ſcattered over a larger ſpace. In ſpring, they are brought to market, long before they arrive at their full growth. This haſte proceeds from the avidity of the officers of the revenue, who receive a duty of four carlini a cantaro for them, whether old or young.

When a long continuance of heavy rains ſwells the little ſtreams that diſcharge themſelves into this gulf, the waters become muddy, and theſe fiſh are then obſerved to grow diſtempered, rotten, and unwholeſome. The cauſe of this malady lies in the noxious fragments of animals, putrid vegetables, oily, bituminous, and ſulphureous particles, waſhed from the

earth by the ſhowers. They cut the tender fibres or fingers which the fiſh ſtretches out, miſtaking them for wholeſome food. The wounded parts feſter, and poiſon the whole body. It is an obſervation made here, and confirmed by long experience, that all the teſtaceous tribe is fuller, fatter, and more delicate, during the new and full moon, than in the firſt and laſt quarters. The difference is accounted for by the tides and currents, which ſet in ſtronger in the new and full moon, and bring with them large quantities of bruiſed fiſhes, inſects, fruits, and other fattening nurture. I was aſſured that nothing cauſes fiſh to ſpoil ſooner than leaving them expoſed to the beams of the moon; and that all prudent fiſhermen, when out by night, cover what they catch with an awning. If they meet with any dead fiſh on the ſtrand, or in the market, they can always diſcern, by its colour and flabbineſs, if it be *allunato*, moon-ſtruck; and, except in caſes of great neceſſity, abſtain from it as unwholeſome.

Not

Not having an opportunity of verifying this aſſertion, I give it as doubtful; for I know the Italians are apt to attribute to the baneful influence of the moon many ſtrange effects, which philoſophers of other nations do not aſcribe to it. No Italian will lie down to ſleep, where moonſhine can reach him.

The Cozze Peloſe, or velvet muſcle, is firſt dragged for in the Great Sea, and then ſcattered to breed on Sciaie, or heaps of ſtones ſunk by the fiſhermen at every head-land of the Mare Piccolo.

Under the Piano, or eaſtern ſhore, are the oyſter-beds: no coaſt affords a more exquiſite ſort. In winter, large hampers of them are ſent over land to Naples. The ſeaſon is confined by law to a term between the 25th of November and Eaſter Sunday.

Brunduſium was the great ſupplier of oyſters for the Roman tables. From that port, the ſpawn was carried to ſtock their public reſervoirs at the Lucrine Lake, near Baiæ; and no mention

mention is made by the ancients of the excellence of any Tarentine ſhell fiſh except the ſcallop *. It is therefore not unlikely that oyſter ſpawn has been brought to Taranto from Brandiſi, and better preſerved than at the original bed, where the obſtructions in the mouth of the harbour have ruined all the fiſheries †.

The

* Pectinibus patulis jactat ſe molle Tarentum.

HOR. Sat.

† I received from my friend, F. Ant. Minaſi, the following Liſt of Shell-fiſh found in the Tarentine waters. He drew it up according to the Linnæan ſyſtem from a large aſſortment of ſpecimens, which he was commiſſioned to claſs, before they were preſented by the Archbiſhop of Taranto to the Infant Don Gabriel. Had my learned correſpondent had an opportunity of viſiting thoſe ſeas, it is more than probable that his piercing and experienced eye would have diſcovered other ſpecies, if not genera, of fiſhes.

1. Chiton ſquamoſus et cinereus
2. Lepas balanus
3. Lepas anatifera
4. Lepas teſtudinaria—altera radiis 6, et altera 5.
5. Pholas dactylus cum cardine recurvato connexoque cartilagine
6. Mya pictorum
7. So-

The papyraceous Nautilus is ſometimes, but very rarely, ſeen ſpreading the wonderful mechaniſm

7. Solen enſis
8. Solen legumen
9. Solen ſtrigilatus
10. Tellina anomala
11. Tellina carnaria
12. Tellina roſtrata
13. Tellina Punicea
14. Tellina fragilis
15. Tellina planata
16. Cardium aculeatum
17. Cardium edule
18. Cardium ruſticum
19. Mactra ſtriatula
20. Donax trunculus
21. Venus læta
22. Venus Paphia
23. Venus callypige
24. Venus deflorata
25. Spondylus Gæderopus
26. Chama antiquata
27. Arca Noæ
28. Arca barbata
29. Anomia ephectum
30. Mytilus edulis
31. Pinna nobilis
32. Argonauta Argo
33. Buccinum gallea
34. Buccinum maculatum
35. Buccinum Tritonis
36. Echinus Cidaris
37. Echinus eſculentus
38. Echinus ſaxatilis
39. Echinus mamillaris
40. Echinus placenta
41. Serpula anguina
42. Oſtrea edulis
43. Oſtrea Jacobea
44. Oſtrea bullata
45. Oſtrea puſio
46. Oſtrea ſanguinea
47. Oſtrea varia
48. Oſtrea lima
49. Oſtrea radula
50. Cyprea talpa
51. Cyprea lurida
52. Cyprea caput ſerpentis
53. Cy-

chaniſm of its ſail and oars in the ſmooth bays of the Mare Grande; and ſometimes fiſhermen ſurpriſe trumpet-ſhells of a prodigious bulk

53. Cyprea pediculus
54. Conus monachus
55. Bulla aperta
56. Bulla Naucus
57. Bulla hydatis
58. Voluta cancellata
59. Voluta glabella
60. Buccinum echinophorum
61. Strombus pes pellicani
62. Strombus lentiginoſus
63. Murex ſaxatilis
64. Murex reticularis
65. Murex coſtatus
66. Murex cutaceus
67. Murex puſio
68. Murex cornutus.
69. Murex erinaceus
70. Murex pileare
71. Murex triqueter
72. Murex fuſcatus
73. Trochus teſſulatus
74. Trochus umbilicaris
75. Turbo cochlus
76. Turbo pullus
77. Turbo nodoloſus
78. Helix picta
79. Nerita littoralis
80. Nerita canræna
81. Nerita rufa
82. Haliotis Midæ
83. Patella finuata
84. Patella lutea
85. Patella ruſtica
86. Patella fuſca
87. Patella puſtula
88. Patella Græca
89. Dentalium dentalis
90. Dentalium corneum
91. Serpula arenaria
92. Serpula vermicularis
93. Serpula contortuplicata

aſleep,

aſleep, floating on the ſurface of the water in a ſultry day.

Very fine branchy coral is found along the coaſt eaſt of the city. The places are kept a profound ſecret. Marks are ſet up on land, by which the Tarentines ſteer their courſe, and ſink their hooks and croſs-beams exactly in the middle of a coral bed, while ſtrangers muſt row about the whole day dragging, without a guide, or certainty of bringing up a ſingle twig. There was, a few years ago, ſuch abundance of coral near theſe ſhores, that a boat's crew was once known to draw up in one day as much as ſold for five hundred ducats (£.93.15s). Large pieces may be had for about five ducats *per* rotolo, which at Taranto contains only thirteen ounces.

Under Cape St. Vito, once famous for an abbey of Baſilian monks, and in moſt parts of the Mare Grande, the rocks are ſtudded with the Pinna Marina. This bivalved ſhell of the muſcle tribe frequently exceeds two feet in length.

length. It faſtens itſelf to the ſtones by its hinge, and throws out a large tuft of ſilky threads, which float and play about to allure ſmall fiſh: amidſt theſe filaments is generally found, beſides other inſects, a ſmall ſhrimp, called by the ancients *Cancer Pinnotheres*, by the modern Tarentines *Caurella*. This little cruſtaceous animal was imagined to be generated with the Pinna, and appointed by nature to act as a watchman, in apprizing it of the approach of prey or enemies; and that, upon the leaſt alarm, this guard ſlipt down into the ſhell, which was inſtantly cloſed: but more accurate obſervers have diſcovered, that the poor ſhrimp is no more than a prey itſelf, and by no means a centinel for the muſcle, which in its turn frequently falls a victim to the wiles of the Polypus Octopedia. In very calm weather, this rapacious pirate may be ſeen ſtealing towards the yawning ſhells with a pebble in his claws, which he darts ſo dexterouſly into the aperture, that the Pinna cannot ſhut itſelf up cloſe enough to pinch

pinch off the feelers of its antagoniſt, or ſave its fleſh from his ravenous tooth. The Pinna is torn off the rocks with hooks, and broken for the ſake of its bunch of ſilk called Lanapenna, which is ſold, in its rude ſtate, for about fifteen carlini a pound, to women that waſh it well with ſoap and freſh water. When it is perfectly cleanſed of all its impurities, they dry it in the ſhade, ſtraiten it with a large comb, cut off the uſeleſs root, and card the remainder; by which means they reduce a pound of coarſe filaments to about three ounces of fine thread. This they knit into ſtockings, gloves, caps, and waiſtcoats; but they commonly mix a little ſilk as a ſtrengthener. This web is of a beautiful yellow-brown, reſembling the burniſhed gold on the back of ſome flies and beetles. I was told that the Lanapenna receives its gloſs from being ſteeped in lemon juice, and being afterwards preſſed down with a taylor's gooſe.

SEC-

SECTION XXXIII.

THE ſeas of Taranto are as copiouſly ſtocked with the ſcaly and finny tribe, as with the cruſtaceous and teſtaceous. The quantity and varieties are very conſiderable; but fiſh caught in the leſſer ſea bears the higheſt price, as ſurpaſſing in delicacy and firmneſs that taken in the larger. This is contrary to what we experience in other countries, and muſt be owing to ſome peculiar quality in the water and ſituation; for, in general, fiſh found in ſtill bays, and near the ſhore, is inferior in taſte to that which is captured farther out, and in places where the currents beat it about, and ſeem to keep it firm and wholeſome by conſtant motion *.

The

* I do not pretend to be acquainted with every ſort of fiſh brought to this market, as at leaſt a year's ſtay on the ſpot would be requiſite to acquire that knowledge; but it may

The people of Taranto depend upon their fiſhery for ſubſiſtence, and pay very heavy duties

may be a ſatisfaction to many Readers to have a Liſt of trivial names, ſuch as it was roughly made out to me by the fiſhermen, and ſince compared with ſome imperfect catalogues I have had a ſight of.

Tarentine Name.	*Latin Name.*
Aguglia	Sudis
Anguilla	Anguilla
Arciola	
Alice	Halex
Abraiz	Rhombus
Cefalo	Mugil
Caſtaudielli	Acus
Calamais	Loligo
Cheppia	Thryſſa
Culinudi	Engraules
Dentice	Dentatus
Fraio	
Faloppæ	
Gugione	Gobio
Goſciolo	Mormyris
Linguatole	Solea

ties to the Crown, and rents to private perſons, for the right of fiſhing. The king receives from them

Tarentine Name.	*Latin Name.*
Lutrino	Rubellio
Lucerna	Lucerna
Murena	Murena
Minchiarello	Mullus
Moſa	
Mazzoni	Aſellus
Orato	Aurata
Occhiata	Melanurus
Orva	
Polpo	Polypus
Palamiti	Pelamydes
Peſce zaffiro	Scarus
Peſce ſpada	Xiphias *
Ruonghi	Gonger
Ricciola	Glaucus
Storione	Acipenſer
Spina	
Soliole	
Sarpa	Piſces virgatus
Scorfano	Scorpio

* This fiſh ſeldom makes its appearance ſo far north.

Samag-

them annually three thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-five ducats (700*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*) for rent, and five thouſand four hundred and thirty ducats (1018*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*), for the excluſive privilege. They purchaſe the beds for ſhell-fiſh of monaſteries and individuals, at the yearly expence of ſix thouſand one hundred and ſixty-eight ducats (1160*l.* 13*s.*); and beſides, all fiſh ſold to

Tarentine Name.	*Latin Name.*
Samagliaſtro	Sargus
Seccia	Sæpia
Sarde	Chalcis
Spigola	Lupus
Sario	Saurus
Sparitielli	Sparulus
Traulo	Lacerta
Tonno	Thynnus *
Tremola	Torpedo
Triglia	
Vopa	Boops
Urigoli	Chelones.

* No Tunny fiſhery is allowed here, leſt that boiſterous fiſh ſhould be driven up into the little ſea, and there diſturb and deſtroy the ſmall fry.

be carried out of the city is ſubject to a toll, farmed out at five thouſand ſix hundred and fifteen ducats (1052*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*) a year. An old regiſter-book called Il Libro Roſſo, kept with great care and veneration in the cuſtom-houſe, points out the proper ſeaſon for each ſpecies of fiſh, the method of propagating them, the nets allowed, and the duty to be exacted. The directors of the cuſtoms are very alert and rigorous in inforcing theſe regulations. They take care to clean the ſpawning places, and weed the mouths of the rivers that empty their waters into the Mare Grande. They rent thoſe ſtreams of the Barons in order to complete the monopoly, and prevent any diſturbance being given to the fiſh at improper times.

To return to my tour, which the fiſh had cauſed me to loſe ſight of, we paſſed under the banks of the Piano, where the ancients kept their wines in grottos called Diulos. The mouths of theſe excavations are now almoſt cloſed up with rubbiſh. Some perſons crept in lately, and

and found the floor ſtrewed with fragments of Amphore. During the canicular ſeaſon there iſſues in the night-time from theſe caverns a moſt impetuous piercing wind.

From the Piano we rowed to the mouth of the Cervaro, and from thence to the promontory of Penna, which divides the little ſea into two unequal bays. As ſomething like the foundations of piers may be obſerved under water, it has been ſuppoſed by ſome authors that a bridge formerly exiſted, reaching from this cape to the Pizzone in the old city. It is poſſible there may have been a boom laid acroſs for greater ſecurity, or a paſſage made for the convenience of the citizens; but it is clear from Strabo, that anciently the port was ſhut up with a bridge in the very place where we now ſee one. He ſays that the harbour is * cloſed up with a large bridge; a line drawn from the Penna would only ſecure half of it, and no efforts of the Romans could have confined the

* Κλειομενος.

Tarentine gallies, had not the garriſon of the citadel been in poſſeſſion of ſtrong works and draw-bridges at the mouth of the harbour, which effectually commanded the paſſage.

Not far from the Penna is the Citrello, a ſpace of thirty-five yards by eight, where four ſtrong ſprings and ſeveral ſmall ones of freſh water force their way up, and preſerve their ſweetneſs amidſt the brine of the waves. Shoals of fiſh may be ſeen ſwimming over theſe *Occhi* or fountains, as it were to cool and cleanſe themſelves. Theſe boilers are only a continuation of the ſpring that produces the brook of the Citrezze.

From hence we paſſed under the bridge, where the current ſets-in very ſtrong, and in boiſterous weather the navigation is hazardous. On the left hand, near the city-wall, lies the ſhipping in tolerable ſafety, notwithſtanding the great expanſe of the Mare Grande. The force of the waves is broken by the iſlands of Santa Pelagia and St. Andrew, the ſhelves called Pietre

Pietre Sizzoſe, and the two capes which complete the circle. Thoſe iſlands were known to the ancients by the name of Electrides or Chærades; and if we may judge by ſome ruins ſtill diſcernible near the water, were certainly inhabited. At preſent their only inhabitants are rabbits that burrow in the ſand, and under the buſhes, with which their whole ſurface is overgrown. In 1594, Cicalà Baffa anchored at Pelagia for ſeveral days, to the great terror of all the people along the coaſt. The intelligence he received of the country being alarmed, and troops marching to give him a warm reception, determined him to weigh anchor, and ſail for Turkey, without attempting to land.

I rode next morning into the country, to ſee how far its actual fertility came up to the idea ancient authors have left us of it; and returned ſatisfied, that Nature is ſtill ready to ſhew the ſame partiality, when called upon by the ſame induſtry and arts that tend to facilitate and improve her efforts. The early ſeaſon of the year

prevented my forming any judgment of the fruits of the earth. Columella, Pliny, and Macrobius ſpeak highly of the pears of Tarentum, and praiſe its figs, cheſnuts, walnuts, and ambroſial almonds. At preſent the moſt delicate of its figs is the Neapolitan, a ſmall black ſort that hangs on the tree till January.

The farmers take great care of their olive-trees; they manure and water the roots, plough the ground about them, and ſow it with corn, but never with oats; the ſtubble is cut off cloſe, and ſwept away, to make room for the fruit to fall, but is never ſet on fire, for fear of damaging the trees; the boughs are not beaten, but the olives gathered.

The vines, which are kept low and upon pales, are the moſt healthy and vigorous I ever beheld; the wine is carried in ſkins as in the days of paganiſm, when it was a religious ceremony, as well as a gambol, to tumble over the oiled leathern budget. I taſted no wine at Taranto that pleaſed my palate, or deſerved any com-

commendation. Horace's Amicus Aulon, which critics have tranſported to every hill within ten miles of Taranto, nay even ſo far as Caſtelvetere in Calabria, ſeems to have been about ſix miles from the preſent town to the eaſt, at a part of the coaſt where a well-watered valley, full of orange and other fruit-trees, is ſheltered from every rude blaſt by an amphitheatre of low eminences, moſt happily adapted to the growth of the vine.

The arable lands are well cultivated, and produce wheat, oats, barley, and cotton in great abundance, and of an excellent ſound quality. The cotton manufacture employs thoſe poor Tarentines who are not able to follow the profeſſion of fiſhermen. The wages of a labourer in the fields is a carlino a day. The uſual method is to divide the crop equally between the owner of the land and the farmer that tills it; but the extent of waſte grounds is immenſe, and whatever pains may be beſtowed upon corn-land, nobody here has an idea of doing

doing any thing to improve paſtures or meadows:—not a ſeed is ſown, weed deſtroyed, or barren buſh grubbed up.

The honey I taſted was ſo good, that I may affirm no degeneracy is perceptible among the modern bees of Taranto; and that the poet might ſtill compare their produce to that of the bees of Hymettus *.

SECTION XXXIV.

A SITUATION, bleſt with ſo delicious a climate, and ſo fine a haven, muſt have attracted the early notice of the Eaſtern navigators, who, like Columbus, Drake, and Cook, of modern times, ſailed from home in queſt of new worlds and unexplored coaſts. Some of them,

* —— Ubi non Hymetto
Mella decedunt.——

them, no doubt, ventured up the Adriatic, in hopes of diſcovering unopened ſources of wealth, and commodious ſettlements for the colonies, which exceſs of population obliged the mother country to ſend forth. Let us conſider Taras in the light of another Cortez; but, inſtead of making him the captain of a troop of bigoted aſſaſſins, let us ſuppoſe him to have headed a ſet of civilized, humane men, deſirous of procuring a good eſtabliſhment in a ſtrange country, but unwilling to cement the foundations of their new ſtate with the blood of the natives. The wiſdom and moderation of the adventurers gain the affections of the native ſavages, and a ſenſe of mutual intereſt unites them both into one body. The chief of the new-comers paſſes in time for a being of god-like race, and his companions are too ſenſible of the utility of the deception, not to encourage the belief. All leaders of maritime expeditions, and indeed all rulers of nations dwelling near the ſea, were, in the oriental figurative language of thoſe ages (whoſe

(whoſe moſt ſimple expreſſions are complete riddles for us), denominated Sons of the Ocean, of Neptune, or of ſome other marine Deity. Veſſels of a large ſize bore the name of ſome monſter of the deep, or formidable quadruped of the earth. Europa's Bull was a ſhip of the firſt magnitude; Phryxus's Ram was one of the ſecond rate; and we may preſume that the Dove, ſent by Jaſon to ſurvey the paſſage of the Dardanelles, was a light ſkiff, proper for diſcovery; the Dolphin on the coins of Tarentum, with the naked man ſitting upon its back, was perhaps ſtruck in remembrance of Taras and his ſhip. There ſeems to be very little reaſon for imagining that Arion is repreſented by the figure with a lyre in its hand. It was indeed on his paſſage from hence to Leſbos that he was thrown overboard, and taken up by a dolphin, or a ſhip of that name; but we cannot ſuppoſe that the Tarentines were very eager to perpetuate the memory of an event that redounded ſo little to their honour.

About

About a century before the ſiege of Troy, a colony of Cretans founded Uria, and obtruded themſelves upon the Tarentines, who, after a long conteſt, were obliged to admit them into their ſociety.

In the twenty-firſt Olympiad, ſo powerful a body of emigrants arrived under Phalanthus from Laconia, that it may almoſt be called a ſecond foundation. This general was marked, from the firſt moment of his exiſtence, for an outcaſt and an adventurer. He and all his followers were the ſpurious iſſue of the Spartan women, whoſe huſbands, on marching againſt Meſſenæ, had made a vow not to return to their families till they had ſubdued their enemies. The war drawing out to a much greater length than they had imagined, theſe warriors began to be apprehenſive leſt the race of fighting citizens ſhould become extinct, on the failure of that generation. In order to preſerve their oath inviolate, and yet ſave the commonwealth from diſſolution, they ſent back all ſuch as had joined

joined the army after the firſt campaign, to keep the women company. The offspring of theſe temporary unions were called Parthenii; and, when grown up, were driven out to ſeek their fortunes in diſtant climes. Being received into Tarentum, they acquired a ſuperiority over the natives, new-modelled the government upon an ariſtocratical plan, enlarged the fortifications, and transformed the city into a mere copy of Sparta. The very places were new-named; and among others, the Galeſus took the name of Eurotas.

Moſt of the nobles having periſhed in a war with the Japyges, democracy was introduced. About the ſeventieth Olympiad, the Pythagorean philoſophy gained a footing at Tarentum, and worked wonders in poliſhing the manners, opening the underſtanding, and enlarging the ideas of this people, who were naturally diſpoſed to traffick, arts, and ſciences. The improvements of its trade was the grand object that engaged the attention of its legiſlators. They knew

knew full well, that to the foſtering influence of commerce, as much as to ſucceſs in military exploits, Egypt, Phœnicia, and Greece, owed the very tranſcendent degree of glory and power which they had attained. Every nerve was therefore ſtrained, to excite emulation in the citizens, to create a maritime force, to allure traders to the mart, and to render the city a centrical point of traffick for all parts of the mercantile world. The nature of its ſituation ſeconded their endeavours; for no place lay more conveniently for the trade of Italy, Illyricum, Greece, Aſia, and Africa, than Tarentum. We muſt conſider that, to moſt of the ancient mariners, the Mediterranean was an ocean; Spain, a Peru; Tyre, and ſome other States on the ſea-coaſt, what Britain and Holland have been ſince, the great maritime powers: while Egypt and Perſia were the type of the preſent formidable inland monarchies. In all the long range of ſhore from Rhegium to Sipontum, Tarentum was the only port where veſſels could

fly

fly for refuge in tempeſtuous weather. Brunduſium is not ſuppoſed to have exiſted at ſo early a period; and Croton was no better than a road where ſhips could not venture to lie in winter. Every department of the Tarentine government had an eye to commerce; and even its religious games and feaſts were inſtituted to encourage barter, and attract ſtrangers. In proceſs of time, when abuſes crept into the adminiſtration of affairs, and giddy pleaſure with unmeaning riot took the place of politic amuſement, it was remarked that the Tarentine calendar contained more feſtivals than there were days in the year. The ſame thing may be ſaid of modern Rome, where no day paſſes without bringing with it the feaſt of a patron, anniverſary of the conſecration of a church, or removal of ſome relick, if not ſeveral the ſame day, excluſive of general proceſſions and ſolemnities. The different complexion of the two religions prevents the modern feaſts from degenerating into as much gaiety and intemperance as thoſe of Paganiſm.

With

With their wealth, the power of the Tarentines roſe above that of all the colonies of Magna Græcia; their land-forces were eſtimated at thirty-two thouſand foot and three thouſand horſe *, in conſtant pay; the number of citizens amounted to three hundred thouſand †, and thirteen conſiderable cities acknowledged their dominion; at ſea their fleets rode triumphant and unrivalled. The moſt brilliant epocha of their hiſtory was during the government of Archytas, whoſe profound learning as a philoſopher, and ſkill as a mechanician, were no clog upon his political abilities. His virtues were of the nobleſt kind, exalted to as great ſublimity of excellence as the plain morality of the law of nature is capable of attaining. He is ſaid to

* The horſe and rider, ſo frequent on the coins of this republic, allude, perhaps, to the great dexterity of the Tarentines in horſemanſhip. They went to battle with two horſes to each cavalier, who, when one fell or grew fatigued, vaulted upon the other.

† The preſent city does not contain above eighteen thouſand ſouls.

have invented many uſeful inſtruments, and to have improved upon thoſe already known. He frequently led the Tarentines to battle, and always returned crowned with freſh laurels. To ſtrengthen the ſinews of the Grecian confederacy, he appointed general aſſemblies to be held at Heraclea, a dependence of Tarentum, where every thing relative to the common intereſt might be diſcuſſed and determined. He appears to have been murdered in ſome civil commotion, and his body thrown into the ſea.

With Archytas ended the true proſperity of his country. In the one hundredth Olympiad, luxury and corruption had gained ſuch power as to pervert all original good principles, both of morals and government; to enervate the minds and bodies of the citizens, and thereby to expoſe the republick, feeble and defenceleſs, to the inſults of the hardy Barbarians that ſurrounded it. The liberal arts did not flouriſh the worſe for this degeneracy; luxury and ſoftneſs of manners are as favourable to their advancement,

ment, as a rich mellow ſoil is to the vegetation of a beautiful flowering plant. Though the rude conquerors of the Tarentines have deprived us of the ſight of their admirable performances in painting, ſculpture, and architecture, we may ſtill form an idea of the exquiſiteneſs of their taſte by their coins*. The number of learned men

* Nummi Tarentinorum.

AUR. 1. Caput muliebre comptis capillis, delphines duo, TAPAΣ.=Puer nudus equo inſidens ſupra volitante victoria, delphin, ſydus ΣA.

2. Cap. puellæ cum monili E TAPANTINΩN.=Puer nudus delphinum inequitans extensâ dexterâ delphinum, lævâ tridentem tenens TAPAΣ.

3. Cap. imb. laureatum.=Aquila TAPANTIN.

4. Cap. imb. laur. delphin ΣA TAPAΣ.=Hercules cum leone decertans, arcus KN.

5. Cap. gal. NI.=Noctua apertis alis inſiſtens fulmini.

6. Cap. imb. pelle leoninâ tectum.=Juvenis nudus delph. ineq. dext. extensâ diotam, lævâ haſtam tenens TAPAΣ.

7. Cap. imb. tectum pelle leoninâ.=Bigæ aurigante Neptuno dext. habenas læ. tridentem. TAPANTINΩN.

men born at Tarentum, or educated in its ſchools, is a ſufficient proof of the eſteem in which ſcience

8. Cap. Jovis barbat. laur. fulmen.=Aquila alis expanſis fulm. inſ. ante avem Pallas haſtâ minax TAPANTINΩN.

9. Cap. imb. laur. ꝶ.=Aquila fulm. inſ. TAPANTINΩN AP.

10. Cap. Minervæ gal. TAPANTINΩN.=Victoria in curru à duob. delphinibus. trac. NIK.

ARG. 1. Mulier equo inſ. ΦΙ-ΦΙΑΗΜΕΝΟΣ.=Homo delp. inſ. d. tripodem. ſ. trid. cap. bovinum TAPAΣ.

2. Eques ΣΥ-ΑΥΚΙΝΟΣ.=Homo delp. inſ. d. trid. l. pallium noctua TAPAΣ.

3. Cap. mul. diad.=Mulier equo inſ. TA cornucopiæ, delphin.

4. Cap. mul. diad.=mul. equo inſ. delphin. dimidium capræ TA.

5. Eques.=Homo nud. delp. inſ. TAPAΣ.

6. Eques.=Homo nud. del. inſ. facem. tenens Σ.

7. Eques.=Homo delp. inſ. tridentem ten. ſubt. undæ K. TAP.

8. Eques tripus ΣΑΑΑ ΣΩ.=Mulier colum. ten. delp. inſ. TAPAΣ.

9. Eques galeatus cum clypeo et haſtâ.=Mulier delp.

ſcience and polite literature were held. Ariſtoxenus is, I believe, the only author of whoſe works

delp. inf. velata d. botrum l. colum. TAPAΣ AMO.

10. Eques hominem calcans=Homo ſupra delp. genu flexo nixus clyp. ten TAPAΣ NOΣ.

11. Duo equites, alter cum clavâ, alter cum lanceâ ΞENOΦIAA.=Homo delp. inf. cum clypeo d. victoriolam. l. duogacula, IΩ.

12. Concha.=Homo delp. inf. d. ſacculum l. tridentem TAPAΣ.

13. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules infans duos ſerpentes ſuffocans TA.

14. Cap. mul.=Hercules leonem trucidans.

15. Cap. Jovis=Delphin.

16. Eques, victoriâ equum ducente.=Homo delp. inf.

17. Homo delp. inf.=Equus marinus.

18. Cap. Minervæ=Noctua TAP.

19. Cap. Cereris TAPAΣ.=Eques haſtam vibrans.

20. Vir nudus equo inf. cap. rad. haſt. vib. API.=Vir. delp. inf. d. vaſ. ſ. temonem. TAPAΣ KA.EII.

21. Eques haſt. vib.=Vir delp. inf. cum victoriolâ haſtâ et clypeo.

22. Eques victoriam calcans.=Vir delp. inf. ΞOP.

works even a fragment has been preſerved. He was a philoſophical writer upon muſic, for which he ſeems to have felt extraordinary enthuſiaſm, as he aſſerts that the eſſence of the human ſoul is harmony.

SECTION XXXV.

ABOUT three hundred years before Chriſt, the Tarentine republic, conſcious of the effeminacy and incapacity of its own citizens, began to employ foreign generals and mercenary troops to fight its battles. Being hard preſſed by the Lucanians, the Tarentines called to their aid Alexander King of Epirus, who ſecured them againſt the enterprizes of thoſe barbarians

ÆR. 1. Cap. Herculis.=Eques T. r.
2. Cap. mulieb =Concha. delphin.
3. Cap. imb =Delphin.
4. Figura delph. inf. d. cor. l. cornuc.=Concha.
5. Caput. barb. diad. ☧.=Piſcis.

at

at the expence of his own life. Fifty-ſeven years after his death, Pyrrhus, alſo king of Epirus, came over to defend them againſt the Romans. That ambitious people had levelled almoſt all the barriers that protected the ſoft Tarentine nation; and nothing was wanting but a tolerable pretext for commencing hoſtilities, which could not fail to add theſe rich coaſts to their other uſurpations. Rome had never ſhewn herſelf very ſcrupulous or nice in the choice of her reaſons for aſſaulting a neighbour; but, on the preſent occaſion, Tarentum furniſhed her with a cauſe of war, which, if we may truſt the very ſuſpicious teſtimony of the Latin hiſtorians, would be deemed ſufficiently weighty by the moſt rigid caſuiſt. A Roman fleet bringing corn from Apulia, and paſſing within ſight of Tarentum, was attacked by the inhabitants of that city, the ſhips deſtroyed, and the crews maſſacred. The ambaſſadors, ſent to demand ſatisfaction, were treated with the utmoſt indignity, and the reſentment of the Romans ſet at

defiance. But if we pay proper attention to what we read in Livy and Dionyſius Halycarnaſſæus, we ſhall diſcover ſomething that may clear the Tarentines; I will not ſay of the guilt of miſbehaving to perſons uſually accounted ſacred, but at leaſt of having been wantonly the aggreſſors. By a treaty entered into ſome years before, the Romans had engaged not to navigate to the north of the Lacinian Cape, or interfere with the commerce of the Adriatic. A Roman conſul had rejected with ſcorn the mediation of the Tarentines in behalf of the Samnites; and the emiſſaries of Rome had fomented inſurrections among the ſubjects of Tarentum. Whichſoever of the parties might have juſtice on its ſide, it is but too obvious, that the weight of power preponderated in favour of Rome; therefore the only reſource of her foe was to ſeek defenders wherever money could purchaſe them, ſince the degeneracy of the citizens of Tarentum had deprived them even of the idea of becoming ſoldiers themſelves. Pyrrhus, the

firſt

firſt Grecian general of the age, was the perſon applied to. Allured by avaricious and ambitious motives, he landed in Italy, and defeated the Romans in two engagements; but, finding the war likely to prove too heavy a burden for his ſhoulders, and his government irkſome to the people he came to fight for, he ſeized a frivolous pretence, and ſailed to Sicily, which he alſo abandoned for ſimilar reaſons. He returned to Tarentum; but, being defeated by Curius Dentatus near Beneventum, ſtole away to Greece, and left his allies to make the beſt terms they could with the victor. The Tarentines, rouſed from their lethargy by deſpair and the approach of danger, continued for ſome time to make an obſtinate defence. They even perſuaded the Carthaginians to ſend a fleet to their ſuccour; but, being at length obliged to yield to the ſuperior force of Rome, they experienced the mildeſt treatment at her hands, were ranked in the number of her allies, and ſuffered to govern them-

themſelves by their own laws, under the controul of a Roman garriſon.

We hear no more of the Tarentines till Hannibal penetrated into their country, and by the aſſiſtance of Philemenes ſurpriſed their city. Livius, the Roman Governor, remained in poſſeſſion of the citadel and entrance of the port, by which means the Tarentine fleet was blocked up and rendered uſeleſs. But the active genius of the African general was not to be cramped by apparent difficulties. He cauſed the galleys to be brought aſhore, placed upon carriages and rollers, and thus drawn over the Iſthmus, through the city, into the outer bay, where he aſtoniſhed the enemy with the appearance of a formidable fleet. This naval armament, under Democrates, defeated the Roman convoy off Croton.

It is a doubt among antiquaries which is the place where the ſhips were hauled over. The expreſſions of Polybius appear to indicate the hollow of the preſent ditch or cut made by Ferdinand

Ferdinand the Firſt, as it anſwers to the ſpace between the wall and rampart erected by Hannibal, to prevent the Romans from ſallying out of the citadel upon the town. Gonſalvo de Cordova did the very ſame thing in the ſame place. A ſimilar expedient was practiſed by Dragut, a Turkiſh admiral, in eſcaping from the Genoeſe gallies of D'Oria, who had blocked him up in one of the bays of Greece.

The weakneſs and diſunited councils of Carthage having obliged Hannibal to evacuate Italy, his allies were left at the mercy of a republic not always prone to clemency. But, before the departure of the African chief, Fabius Maximus had retaken Tarentum by the treachery of the garriſon, and plundered it of an immenſe treaſure.

From this period Tarentum ceaſed to be known in the world as a ſtate of any political importance. The tide of commerce was inſenſibly averted into other channels, and its hiſtory, as well as its citizens, ſunk into an inglorious

glorious obſcurity; perhaps a happier ſituation than it had ever enjoyed during the moſt ſhining periods of its annals. It retained a great amenity of manners, the effect of Greek inſtitutions, mild climate, and fertile ſoil, where no very rough exertions were required to earn a ſubſiſtence, and where the very air ſeemed to breathe the ſoftneſs of its own character into the ſouls of all the inhabitants. From the deſcriptions and encomiums of Horace, we may judge how high an opinion the ancients had of its temperature.

A Roman colony was ſent hither; but this city appears to have returned very ſpeedily to the ſtate of a municipium, governed by its own laws and uſages, under the obligation of furniſhing to the Roman navy a certain quota of ſhips. The liberty it enjoyed muſt have been very ample; for it was looked upon in the light of a Greek city, where Roman exiles might reſide, as in a foreign country; a privilege it enjoyed in common with Naples.

In

In the Auguſtan age, it ſtill retained the Grecian manners and language; though, except Rhegium and Naples, all the reſt of Magna Græcia had loſt every trace of the features of its mother-country, utterly obliterated by an intercourſe with Barbarians. In the fourth century after Chriſt, Tarentum yielded to the ſame baneful influence, and the language of Homer ceaſed to be the vulgar tongue; but Greek no doubt gained a ſuperiority over Latin during the tenth and eleventh ages, while Puglia obeyed the Emperors of the Eaſt. Its final baniſhment was the conſequence of the Norman Conqueſt.

The deſtruction of Tarentum's independence appears to have cauſed an early emigration of its citizens. Their numbers were ſo reduced about the time of Auguſtus, that the greateſt part of the old incloſure was deſerted, and moſt of the inhabitants ſettled near the caſtle. Here they laid out their forum, in which they placed a coloſſal ſtatue of Jupiter, of a ſize inferior only

only to that of the Rhodian Apollo, and the only memorial left them of the ſplendour of their ancient commonwealth.

This ſituation near the citadel was of particular advantage to the Tarentines, in ſecuring them from the inroads of the Goths, who, being deſtitute of a maritime force, could make no attack but on the land quarter.

After the death of Conſtans the Second, in 668, Romuald, Duke of Benevento, conquered this province; and the Greek Patrician, who had hitherto reſided at Tarentum, removed his tribunal to Reggio. On the decline of the Lombard power, the Grecian emperors recovered poſſeſſion of this country, and kept it till Robert Guiſcard drove them for ever out of Italy.

In the year 927, or in the preceding century (for the chronology of thoſe times is miſerably confuſed), the Saracens or Hungarians deſtroyed the city of Tarentum; but its ſituation rendered it of too much conſequence not to be

ſpeedily

ſpeedily rebuilt. It was probably on this re-eſtabliſhment that the deſertion of the old ſite was completed. Nicephorus built the bridge, and made the Marina, for the purpoſe of ſecuring the entrance of the haven, and affording more ſpace for building within the walls.

Duke Robert, the Norman, after the total expulſion of the Greeks, created his ſon Bohemund Prince of Taranto; on the failure of whoſe iſſue, it was beſtowed on Henry, ſon of King Roger; and afterwards on William, a baſtard of that King. From him William the Firſt reſumed it, as being too great an appanage for an illegitimate branch of the royal family. It was part of the fortune of Manfred of Swabia, who long bore the title of Prince of Taranto. The principality was next conferred by Charles the Second upon his ſon Philip, titular Emperor of Conſtantinople, whoſe daughter, and at length ſole heireſs, carried it into the houſe of Baux. This family ſoon failed, and Raymund Orſini, a younger ſon of the Earl

of

of Nola, obtained it. He had raiſed his fortune by his own adventurous valour; and, taking advantage of the circumſtances of the times, aſſumed an almoſt abſolute and independent ſway over the coaſt of Puglia. Upon his death, his ſon was ſtripped of all his poſſeſſions by King Ladiſlaus, who, by marrying Raymund's widow, made himſelf at length maſter of Taranto, the only place that ſtood out in defence of the infant proprietor. Queen Joan the Second gave it to her huſband, the Earl of La Marche; but he, being in diſtreſs for money to carry him out of the kingdom, when he fled from his wife, ſold the principality to John Anthony Orſino Balzo, the right owner. This Prince, who was a very powerful Baron, made a great figure in the troubles that attended the firſt eſtabliſhment of the Aragonian Kings, and became almoſt an independent ſovereign. On his demiſe without iſſue, Taranto eſcheated to the Crown. Ferdinand the Firſt made it a proviſion for his ſecond ſon Frederick; after whoſe expulſion

expulſion Taranto ceaſed to be feudal. It is now no longer even the ſhadow of that proud democratical republic, which dared to cope with Rome; nor is it the princely ſeat of a tyrannical feudatory. Poor and languiſhing, both as to trade and manufactures, it ſoothes its vanity with the conſciouſneſs of regal immunities, and immediate vaſſalage under the King.

The inhabitants neglect the culture of their fields, and turn all their attention to fiſhing; a profeſſion hampered with fewer incumbrances, leſs continual labour, and affording greater certainty of ſucceſs. Their lands are cultivated, their corn reaped, by Calabrians; their paſtures covered with Abruzzeſe ſheep and ſhepherds; while the modern Tarentines, as much at leaſt as their poverty will allow them, ſeem to copy the gentle, indolent manners of their forefathers, citizens of *Molle Tarentum*. They are ſtill paſſionately fond of amuſements, and eager only in the purſuits of pleaſure. Their addreſs is affable, and pleaſing to ſtrangers; their pro-

nunciation liſping, and ſofter than that of the natives of the neighbouring provinces. Here women bring forth children with little difficulty; and treat as a ſlight inconvenience thoſe dangers and pains which are ſo dreadful to their ſex in moſt other countries. Here it is impoſſible to cite an inſtance of a perſon's dying in childbed.

JOURNEY

JOURNEY

FROM

TARANTO TO REGGIO.

SECTION XXXVI.

ON the ſixth of May, I hired a guide, and proceeded on my journey towards Calabria. About four miles from Taranto we croſſed a river, ſuppoſed by ſome Geographers to be the Taras. It runs through marſhes and thickets of tall reeds, is deep, and much reſorted to by wild boars, who in ſummer deſcend in droves

to cool themſelves and wallow in the mud. If diſturbed, they ſwim acroſs; but ſoon return, unleſs it prove a very wet autumn, and then they retire up to the drier woods on the banks of the Bradano.

We rode all day along the ſea-ſhore, between the beach and an immenſe foreſt of low pitch-pines; the underwood, juniper. At the mouth of the Lieto, the ſea runs a great way up into the land, and forms ſalt-ponds, which in ſummer exhale infectious vapours; in May, they were only beautiful objects in this wild and grand view of wood and water. The whole ſoil is ſandy, and bears evident marks of its having been lately recovered from the ſea, either by the voluntary receſſion of the watery element, or by the accumulation of earth hurried down in floods from the high lands. At the river Bradano * we left the province of Otranto, and entered that of Baſilicata. It was alſo the boundary of ancient Lucania, and in-

* Anciently Bradanus.

deed

deed of Italy; for in very early times that name was confined to the country ſouth of this limit.

After a long but agreeable ride of twenty-four miles, we ſtopped at Torre di Mare, a poor place near a ruinous tower, built by the Angevine kings, as a ſafe-guard to the coaſt; but, by the retreat of the ſea, now at ſuch a diſtance from it as no longer to ſerve that end. The waſte round it is fenny, damp, and unwholeſome. After dinner we ferried over the Baſiento*, wheron Octavius Cæſar and Mark Antony had an interview, brought about by the generous mediation of Octavia. Theſe triumvirs came with their troops to oppoſite banks of the river. Antony jumped into a boat, and puſhed off unattended towards the other ſide: but Cæſar met him, in another ſkiff, half-way, and, after mutual endeavours to ſhew exceſſive confidence in each other, Antony was perſuaded to give up the point, and ſuffer Cæſar to accompany him

* Anciently the Metapontus, or Caſuentum.

to Tarentum, where they were to agree upon a plan for ſettling the Roman empire *.

Near the mouth of this river, ſome columns, riſing out of the ſandy hillocks, mark the ſituation of Metapontum. Theſe pillars of coarſe marble ſtand in two rows, which are about eighty feet aſunder, ten in one row, and five in the other; their diameter five feet, their height fifteen, the interſtices ten. Part of the architrave is all that remains of the entablature. They are of the ancient Doric order, tapering regularly with a large cyathiform capital †, and no baſe but a kind of plinth that belongs to the whole row. They are channeled into

* Alberti places this meeting on the Bradano; Joan. Juvenis, on the Tara. But, as Appian expreſsly ſays it was on the river of Metapontum, it can be no other than the Baſiento.

† I cannot convey to the reader a clearer idea of the ſhape of this cup-form capital (which is to be ſeen at Pæſtum, Segeſta, Selinunte, Syracuſe, Girgenti, and St. Peter ad vincula in Rome), than by comparing it to a ſhallow bowl, covered with a thin ſquare ſtone.

twenty

twenty ſharp deep flutes, now much corroded by the ſalt ſpray, and the action of the air.

This ſtyle of architecture has ſomething in it ſolemn and majeſtic, adapted to the dignity of divine worſhip, or the gravity of an aſſembly of ſenators. Were I to build a city, I ſhould appropriate this noble order to the great churches, town-hall, and exchange, whilſt I embelliſhed the palaces and theatres with the gay Corinthian. I do not allow the ſame auguſt appearance to the modern Doric, which is much lighter, and more profuſely enriched with ornaments.

Theſe are all the veſtiges of Metapontum, a city once admirably calculated by ſituation for attaining the ſpecies of proſperity that ſeems to have been the end conſtantly propoſed by its citizens, viz. opulence ariſing from agriculture and exportation of corn. It ſtood on the ſkirts of a plain twenty-five miles in length, which, two thouſand years ago (when Metapontum was

in the zenith of its reſpectable, becauſe moſt innocent, glory), was well peopled, full of towns and villages, attentively cultivated and fertilized, not deſolated by the waters, as they were then confined to proper channels. The rich crops that waved upon its ſurface, were the baſis on which this colony of Pylians grounded their power and importance. The honour they attached to the profeſſion of huſbandman, and the fruitfulneſs of their territory, are atteſted by their coins*, marked with the head

* Nummi Metapontinorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. mulieb. ſpicis redim.=Spica figura virilis META.

2. Cap. Martis ΥΘ.=Duæ ſpicæ, apis META.

3. Noctua ramo inſ.=Spica & caduc. META.

ARG. 1. Hercules nud. ſtans clav. ger.=Spica META.

2. Cap. Martis, canis ΛΕΥΚΙΠΠΟΣ.=Spica avis—META.

3. Homo nud. bovino capite d. pateram=s. Arundinem=Spica—cicada META.

4. Cap. mul. ſpic. redim.=Spica forceps ΑΟΑ—META.

5. Spica

head of Ceres and an ear of corn, and by the magnificent offering which they made at the ſhrine of the Delphic Apollo. This preſent

5. Spica—META.=Incuſſus.
6. Cap. Palladis.=Spica, clava Æ.
7. Cap. Jovis Ammonis.=Spica tripus ME.
8. Cap. mulieb. diadem.=Spica META.
9. Cap. bovinum.=Spica META.
10. Cap. Martis HPAKΛEIΔΩN.=Duæ ſpicæ, apis META.
11. Cap Cereris.=Spica—Ciconia METAΠO.
12. Galea.=Circulus int. duæ tædæ META—radii ex granis hordeac.
13. Noctua ramo inſ. Σ.=Spica, caduc. MET.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Pallad.=Spica. METAΠONT.
2. Tripus luna. gran. hord.=Spica META.
3. Cap. imb. cornut.=Spica META.
4. Cap. Jovis.=Spica META.
5. Cap. Apoll.=Spica META.
6. Cap. Cereris.=Spica META.
7. Aquila fulm. inſ.=Spica META.
8. Cap. Cereris.=Duæ ſpicæ META.
9. Cap. Minervæ.=Duæ ſpicæ META.
10. Cap. Mercur. alat.=3 gr. hord. caduc. META.

conſiſted

conſiſted of an emblematical repreſentation of Summer in maſſive gold, and was eſteemed one of the richeſt offerings in the temple.

Pythagoras ſpent the laſt years of his life at Metapontum. After his deceaſe, the houſe he had dwelt in was converted into a temple of Ceres, and reſorted to with the greateſt veneration by the Metapontines, who were truly ſenſible of the advantages they had derived from his inſtructions *.

This philoſopher was one of the moſt exalted characters of antiquity; one of the few ſages who did not confine their views to private and partial objects, but made their learning of uſe to nations at large, whom they inſtructed, enlightened and directed in the paths of moral virtue and real glory. Many ridiculous ſtories are related of his opinions and doctrines, which give us the idea of a viſionary or impoſtor; but

* Some authors write that he died, and that the temple was dedicated at Croton.

we ſhould be cautious how we admit implicitly anecdotes reſpecting the great men of diſtant ages, when we find them claſh with what is allowed to have been their general line of conduct. Perhaps Pythagoras found it neceſſary, in order to captivate the veneration and confidence of a credulous ſuperſtitious people, that he ſhould propagate ſtrange and marvellous figments, and thereby allure them to liſten attentively to the leſſons, and obey the injunctions of a lawgiver. He was the legiſlator, the reformer of Magna Græcia. To him and his diſciples the little ſtates that compoſed it owe a celebrity which they were not entitled to from extent of dominion or conqueſts. Their ruin may be attributed to the neglect of his precepts; or, indeed, in ſome ſhape to the very great ſucceſs attending his inſtitutions, which raiſed thoſe republicks to ſuch an uncommon pitch of proſperity, as intoxicated and finally corrupted their citizens.

The

The Metapontines were warm partiſans of Hannibal, who, during many winters, made this city his head-quarters. On the retreat of the Carthaginians, it was puniſhed by the Romans for that attachment with the loſs of its liberty. We are informed by Strabo, that this little commonwealth of farmers was deſtroyed by the Samnites. It remained in ruins, becauſe it could no longer hold out the ſweets of freedom, or the advantages of trade, to entice inhabitants back to its deſolated walls; and the want of cultivators ſpeedily converted its once happy plains into a dreary deſert. At this day there cannot be a more melancholy ſight, or one more mortifying to the pride of man, than this wide-ſtretched tract of land, almoſt without an inhabitant; ſcarcely diſturbed in any part by the plough, full of brown marſhes and ſtagnated pools: noiſome fogs and poiſonous vapours hang over them, and, when ſet in motion by the power of the ſun, carry diſeaſe and death into the blood of the wretches doomed to breathe their

their venomous atmoſphere. Inſtead of a navigable river, in whoſe deep and capacious boſom whole fleets might moor with ſafety, the Baſiento now has the appearance of a ſtraggling torrent, impeded by ſand-banks that ſhift at every ſhower, and drive the waters back over half the plain, where they putrify*.

I ſlept a few miles off to the weſt at a farm-houſe, where my friends of Taranto had previouſly ſecured a comfortable lodging for me.

* When the ſhepherds are obliged to paſs the night in the open air during the bad ſeaſon, their method of guarding againſt the infection is as follows: A fire is lighted, on which they put a large pot of milk. As ſoon as it boils, they ſup up the hot liquor; cuſtom having ſufficiently hardened their throats and ſtomachs. This throws them into a profuſe ſweat; they then cover their heads with warm woollen caps, and lie down to ſleep with their feet cloſe to the fire.

SEC-

SECTION XXXVII.

THE next day we travelled eleven miles in the plain, all one wild paſture; ferried over the Agri *, once a navigable river, now a rapid irregular torrent, and baited at Policoro, a very conſiderable farm lately belonging to the Jeſuits, at preſent in the hands of the Crown. I believe theſe poſſeſſions do not yield to his Sicilian Majeſty ſo great a revenue as they did to that intelligent ſociety. Thoſe fathers had a noble eſtate here, bounded by the ſea, the rivers Agri and Sinno †; and the mountains, containing all kinds of land, paſture, wood, arable and ſalt-marſh. The buildings that were raiſed to contain the produce of ſo large a farm, to houſe the numerous herds and flocks, and to lodge the ſtewards and ſervants requiſite for the conducting of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, are all

* Anciently, Aciris. † Anciently, Siris.

laid

laid out upon the great ſcale that marked every undertaking of that politic congregation. Not many years before the diſſolution of their order, they had a ſtock of five thouſand ſheep, three hundred cows and oxen, four hundred buffaloes, four hundred goats, and two hundred horſes, under the care of three hundred ſervants. At preſent things wear a different aſpect, and ſeem verging to ruin rather than advancing towards greater perfection. During the hot ſeaſon, when the air is all on fire and very feveriſh, the Jeſuits were wont to retire into the mountains to Latronico, another of their eſtates.

At the wood near the banks of the Agri, and about three miles from the ſea, are ſome heaps of rubbiſh, that fix the ſituation of Heraclea*.

And

* Nummi Heracleæ.

AUR. 1. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules leon. ſtrangul. IΦ. HPA.

2. Cap. Palladis=Hercules clava leon. feriens HPAKΛHIΩN.

3. Cap.

And according to the moſt probable conjectures, near the mouth of the Sinno was Siris, the port of that city. At preſent there is nothing but an open road, where ſhips may lie to

3. Cap. Muli. delph. ΣA.=Fig. vir. nud. delph. inf. d. avem. ſ. trident. ÞH. ſubtus undæ.

ARG. 1. Cap. Palladis cum monſt. mar. in galea.=Hercules nud. ſtans d. clavam ſ. arcum & ſpol. leon. HPAKAHIΩN.

2. Cap. Palladis.=Hercules leon. ſtrang. clava noctua ſup. hum. leonis ÞHPAKAH.

3. Cap. Palladis.=Noctua ramo inſ. HPAKAHI.

4. Cap. Pallad.=Hercules nud. ſtans clav. nixus ſpol. leon. tectus ΠM ΦIAΩ ÞHPAK.

5. Homo nudus delp. inequ. d. diotam. ſ. trident. ſub. undæ ÞHP.=Eques nudus ſupervolitante victor. ΣY.

6. Cap. Herculis.=Leo gradiens HE.

7. Cap. leonis.=Pharetra ÞHPA.

ÆR. 1. Cap. imb. laur. ſtella.=Clava pharetra. Arcus ÞH.

2. Cap. Pall. laur. & gal.=Hercules ſtans d. pat. ſ. clav. ÞHPAKAEIΩN.

3. Cap. Herculis.=Clava pharetra ÞHPAKAEIΩN.

4. Cap. gal.=Trophæum ÞHPAKAEIΩN.

take

take in a cargo of corn and other commodities, of which liquorice is one, a root that grows wild in great quantities along theſe ſwamps *. Allowing for all the alterations that ſo many revolving ages may have made in this abandoned ſhore, it is a great matter of doubt with me, whether there ever was any good harbour here; or, even in the Agri, a much larger river, becauſe the ſhape and expoſure of the coaſt reprobates that idea; eſpecially as all ancient authors agree, that no bay between Rhegium and Tarentum was tenable after the autumnal equinox. It is therefore more than probable that ſhips of burden ſeldom anchored in this place.

Siris † was a very ancient city, founded by Trojans, and renowned for its college of prieſts ſkilled

* The ſale of this root is ſaid to produce 700*l.* a-year to the Duke of Corigliano.

† Nummi Sirinorum.

ÆR. 1. Prora navis ⊆EIRIZ.⚌Vas folium pamp. KOTN.

ſkilled in cabaliſtic lore. It became a dependance of Heraclea, to which the principal inhabitants of Siris were obliged to remove. Heraclea was the point of rendezvous agreed upon by the whole Greek confederacy, where their general intereſts and diſputes were to be ſettled. Upon its medals, many of which I purchaſed of the peaſants, is the figure of Hercules tearing open the jaws of the Nemæan lion. It is probable that Zeuxis, one of the moſt celebrated painters of antiquity, was a native of this place rather than of any other Heraclea, as his moſt capital performances were placed in the cities of Magna Græcia. The banks of the Sinno are famous in Roman hiſtory for the victory gained by Pyrrhus over the Conſul Levinus, in the year of Rome 473. This was the firſt encounter the Epirote had with the Romans. He purchaſed the honour of the day at the expence of

2. Cap. Mercurii petaſatum. AA. = Aquila. corona ΣEIRI.

3. Cap. Mercurii pet. ⊆EI. = Vas.

the

the flower of his army, and thereby became ſenſible of the difficulties that awaited the proſecution of his enterprize. He was indebted for his ſucceſs to his own perſonal intrepidity, and to the panic which the firſt ſight of elephants ſtruck into the legions.

The neighbouring hills are compoſed of calcareous tophus, replete with ſhells incruſted over, or petrified. Whole ſkeletons of the larger tribe of quadrupeds have been dug out of theſe ſtony ſtrata. At Rocca Imperiale, or near it, was the town of Lagaria, a colony of the Phoceans, noted in antiquity for a ſweet and ſoft wine, much eſteemed by phyſicians as a cordial.

At Monte Giordano we entered the Upper or Hither Calabria. The inn wearing the face of dirt and poverty, I rode four miles farther to Roſeto, where my guide aſſured me he had an acquaintance that would be happy to accommodate me with a room. The high lands approach

very near to the ſea, and are tolerably cultivated: much of the land ſown with cotton.

At Roſeto, which is but a poor place, I was very hoſpitably received by a prieſt. The old man plied me with many queſtions concerning Naples, England, and America; and, in return for my readineſs in gratifying his curioſity, entered with great good ſenſe into a detail of the manners and cuſtoms of his own country, and informed me of many particulars I was an entire ſtranger to. I learned from him, that population is daily decreaſing within the circle of his knowledge, from many cauſes ariſing out of the general government of the kingdom, of which he acknowledged himſelf an incompetent judge; and alſo, from many others that were within his ſphere, and were daily felt by him. He attributed, but methinks without ſufficient grounds, this progreſs of depopulation to the cuſtom followed by the Calabrians, of never marrying beyond the limits of their own townſhip, which he thought perpetuated defects and diſorders

diſorders among them, and from a want of proper croſſes in the breed, ended in barrenneſs and the extinction of families. By theſe means, all the peaſants of a village are nearly related. The marriage-portion of a girl depends upon the wealth and numbers of the family, and generally conſiſts of a piece of vineyard, or a ſingle fruit-tree, among which the mulberry holds the firſt rank for honour and profit.

The common mode of letting farms of baronial or eccleſiaſtical eſtates throughout Calabria, is by a leaſe of two years, with many clauſes and reſtrictions. Proprietors of land of plebeian rank extend the term to ſix years, and allow the tenant the liberty of cutting a ſtipulated quantity of wood, on condition of his fencing off an equal portion to ſpring up again.

The Barons are in general very far from conſidering themſelves as the protectors, the political fathers, of their vaſſals; but encroach ſo much on the commons and the cultivated grounds, for the ſake of extending their chace,

that the peaſants have neither room nor opportunity to raiſe ſufficient food for their ſupport; they therefore fly to the mendicant and other orders of friars, and take the religious habit to procure a ſubſiſtence. The father of a family, when preſſed for the payment of taxes, and ſinking beneath the load of hunger and diſtreſs, *va alla montagna*, that is, retires to the woods, where he meets with fellow-ſufferers, turns ſmuggler, and becomes by degrees an outlaw, a robber, and an aſſaſſin.

However, matters are not yet in ſo deſperate a ſituation, as to preclude all poſſibility of reſtoring theſe provinces to a ſtate of opulence and populouſneſs. If government were more attentive to the general good than particular intereſts; if juſtice were adminiſtered with more honeſty and impartiality by the ſuperior magiſtrates, and leſs rapaciouſneſs by the ſubalterns; if taxes were more equally and judiciouſly impoſed, and more tenderly exacted; if the aggrieved peaſant had a refuge to fly to in the

the day of oppreſſion, theſe fertile countries might emerge from their preſent ſtate of deſolation, and rich flouriſhing towns might again riſe along the now deſerted ſhores. The women are endowed by nature with ſufficient fecundity, and bring forth their offspring almoſt without a groan. It is a common thing for a woman, far gone with child, to go up to the foreſt for fuel, and to be there ſurpriſed with the pains of childbirth, perhaps haſtened by her toil: ſhe is nowiſe diſmayed at the ſolitude all around her, or the diſtance from home, but delivers herſelf of the infant, which ſhe folds up in her apron, and, after a little reſt, carries to her cottage. It is a proverb much in uſe in the neighbouring provinces, *Che una ſerva Calabreſe piu ama far un figlio che un bucato, i. e.* "A Calabrian "maid-ſervant prefers the labour of childbirth "to that of a waſh."

The Calabrians have ſome very capricious notions deeply rooted in their minds. One is, that every child, whoſe mother has been true

to her marriage-vow, muſt neceſſarily reſemble the father. It is no doubt an eaſy matter to perſuade a peaſant, who ſeldom conſiders the lineaments of his face in a glaſs, that the features of the infant are miniature copies of his; but if he were to become thoroughly convinced that no ſuch reſemblance exiſted, he would never be perſuaded to pardon his wife, or look upon the child in any other light than that of a baſtard.

It is thought a reproach to have been ſuckled by any but one's own mother. This caſe ſeldom happens; for the women recover with ſo much eaſe after lying-in, that few children are expoſed to the neceſſity of ſucking a ſtrange breaſt.

They repoſe great confidence in judgments, and expect to ſee every perſon that jeers at another's defects, afflicted with the ſame; but have a milder idea of the penalty attending paſſionate oaths and haſty curſes: if the party offending repent, they ſuppoſe all danger is blown over.

Inocula-

Inoculation has been attempted in one place only, near Reggio; but from ill ſucceſs in ſome inſtances, and the ſuperſtitious averſion of the vulgar, thoſe who have undergone the operation are held in utter contempt, and marked by ſome opprobrious nickname.

If a perſon dies in the fields by a violent or accidental death, it is believed that his ſpirit will appear in the ſame place in white robes, and that the only way of laying it, is to ſend out young boys to approach ſilently, and cover it with a volley of ſtones. Not long ago a Dominican prieſt, ſitting in his white garment on a hill near Tropea, employed in taking a ſketch of the country, was miſtaken for the ghoſt of an old mad woman who had dropt down dead ſome time before on that identical ſpot. The apparition brought out the youths of the neighbouring village, and the friar had his brains almoſt knocked out before he could convince the little exorciſts of their error *.

* All theſe particulars have been ſince confirmed to me by perſons whom I know to be well acquainted with the ſtate and manners of the country.

SEC.

SECTION XXXVIII.

THE territory of Roſeto produces olives, capers, corn, ſaffron, and cotton. Good wine is ſaid to be made on the hills to the weſt, but my hoſt was not able to procure me any that was palatable. He told me that the mountains abounded with very fine oak-timber, fit for ſhip-building, and that the woods were well ſtocked with game, which is a great annoyance to the farmers, whatever diverſion it may afford the landlord.

By the Roman law, every perſon was at liberty to fiſh and hunt on the lands of another, unleſs formally prohibited by the owner; and, according to the Lombard inſtitutions, no penalty was incurred by treſpaſs without proof of damage. In the kingdom of Naples, the Emperor Frederick ſeems to be the firſt that forbade nets and ſnares, except when employed againſt

againſt bears, wolves, and other noxious animals. His paſſion for the chace dictated this law, which has been revived by many of his ſucceſſors. It is a doubt among the Neapolitan lawyers, what right the Barons have to an excluſive chace in their manors, where they cannot ſhew a preciſe grant in their inveſtiture, or plead immemorial poſſeſſion; and it has been the practice of the courts to diſcountenance their pretenſions: much depends upon local cuſtom. The uſe of guns is contrary to law, which the crown diſpenſes with at a regular price. A licence for fowling in the plains of Naples with bird-calls coſts ten carlines a year; in the plains and woods, twenty-four; and ſixty, with nets, in theſe and in the high lands. At a diſtance from the capital, it is only five; but the ſportſman is not allowed either calls or nets, nor to enter incloſures and reſerved baronial chaces, if walled in. Overtures have been made to adminiſtration by ſeveral under-tenants for the purchaſe of a general leave of ſhooting: but a difference

in

in the price has prevented an agreement. The Cacciator Maggiore of the realm being a great Baron, we cannot be ſurpriſed if he coincide in ſentiment with his fellow-nobles, and, in an ariſtocratical monarchy, be deſirous of extending all reſtrictive laws; ſince we behold, in our land of liberal ideas and boaſted freedom, the country gentlemen eagerly bent upon curtailing the privileges, and thwarting the inclinations, of the inferior claſs of citizens.

Calabria is too hilly to admit of hunting; all game is brought down by the gun, or taken in the net. The beſt kind of ſpaniel is the *Bracca focata*, a ſtrong dog of a black or deep brown colour, with a tawny belly, and ſpots over the eyes. It is ſo excellent, that the king has taken particular pains to increaſe the breed.

The lower parts of the mountains abound with the Ornus, or ſmall-leaved flowering manna-aſh, which grows ſpontaneouſly and without any culture, except that the woodmen cut down all the ſtrong ſtems that grow above the thick-

neſs

neſs of a man's leg. Towards the end of July, the gatherers of manna make an horizontal gaſh, inclining upwards, in the bole of the tree. As the liquor never oozes out the firſt day, another cut is given on the ſecond, and then the woodman fixes the ſtalk of a maple-leaf in the upper wound, and the end of the leaf in the lower one, ſo as to form a cup to receive the gum as it extils from each ſlaſh. The old man told me, that vipers and martens were remarkably fond of manna. He had himſelf frequently ſeen the little quadruped at the tree; but never the reptile, though many of his acquaintance had.—The tyranny exerciſed over the peaſants, on account of this native production of their wilderneſſes, ſtands in the foremoſt line of their numberleſs and abominable grievances. All manna belongs to the King, who gives it in farm to a ſet of contractors. To gather it, a certain number of countrymen are furniſhed by the feudatory, who receives five carlini for every man. During the ſeaſon, which continues about

about a month, theſe fellows are not allowed to abſent themſelves a ſingle day, or undertake the leaſt work of any other kind, however indiſpenſable, for the preſervation of their own little private harveſt. Their ſcanty wages are a poor compenſation for this involuntary ſervice. Their greedy employers give them only three carlines * for every rotolo of manna; which quantity, containing thirty-three ounces and a third, is ſold for twenty-four carlini and three quarters: if it be in tubular pieces, the price riſes one-third. The peaſants are puniſhed with the utmoſt ſeverity, if detected in burning, deſtroying, or damaging any of theſe trees, that cauſe to them ſo much vexation; and are ſent to priſon, if the ſmalleſt quantity of the juice be found in their houſes. They may eat as much as they pleaſe in the woods; and moſt of them take this phyſic once a year.

* In the Salernitan diſtrict, they pay the gatherers five carlini a rotolo.

Some

Some time ago eight hundred poor labourers of the province of Salerno, no longer able to ſupport this oppreſſive taſk, clubbed two carlini a-piece, and bribed a perſon of the court to preſent a memorial from them to the King, at Perſano; but, whether their agent deceived them, or the petition ſhared the fate of ſo many other petitions in all kingdoms, no manner of notice was taken of it; and their ſlaviſh work returns every year, without any proſpect of abolition or remittance. Indeed, throughout the realm, the ſituation of the huſbandmen is truly deplorable; every thing is exciſed, and the modes of collecting wantonly cruel and pernicious. All live animals in Calabria are taxed. Six carlini are paid for an ox, four grains for a ſheep; it is therefore no wonder if the graziers be in indigence, if the cottagers keep no beaſt of any kind, and live upon caſual and unſubſtantial nutriment, inſtead of milk, cheeſe, and other wholeſome diet, which the rich paſturage of the country ought to afford them

them in as great abundance as that which the Flemings enjoy in their fat ſoil.

Arable land here is ploughed four times: the firſt in May. But the labour is in general remiſsly and languidly performed; and, inſtead of laying down their fallows with hay-ſeeds, clover, or any of thoſe rich artificial graſſes which are ſown in England to create fine meadows and paſtures, the Calabrian farmer thinks he does his farm ample juſtice, if he ceaſes to plough it for two or three years, and leaves the good graſs, accidentally produced there, to make its way, as well as it can, through the matted fibres of all manner of rank weeds. There is nothing to encourage the countryman to make any vigorous exertions, or try improvements in agriculture; which require both greater capital and courage than he is poſſeſſed of. He can foreſee no amelioration in his ſituation of life, from any efforts he can make: and woful experience has perhaps taught him to apprehend, that an increaſe of activity and

produce

produce would only draw on his ſhoulders an additional weight of taxes and oppreſſion.

I roſe before day, that I might have leiſure to examine the ſite of Sibaris, and reach Corigliano before ſupper; as there was no tolerable lodging to be expected ſhort of that place.

We rode paſt Trebiſaccio, a very ill-built town, on a hill, and within ſight of ſome others of no conſequence, ſituated on the right hand, upon little eminences prettily planted with olive and almond trees. One of them is called Amendolara, from the abundance of almonds; and is remarkable for being the birth-place of Pomponius Lætus, a celebrated critic and hiſtorian of the fifteenth century. The component parts of theſe hills are a calcareous tophus, with ſea-ſhells, and other foſſile ſubſtances. The plains along the ſhore are very boggy, and interſected by a great number of ſmall rivulets, one of which is ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur, and, as I was told, flows from ſome baths among the hills. The drier ſpots pro-

duce very rich crops of corn. Near the banks of the Racanello, we met great droves of buffaloes, belonging to the Ducheſs of Caſſano: I think the number of beaſts exceeded a thouſand. Theſe rank, wet paſtures are very proper for the breeding of this ſpecies of horned cattle, which are of a heavy yet laborious diſpoſition, and delight in marſhes. During the broiling heats of ſummers they lay themſelves down in the water, and, leaving only the end of their noſes above the ſurface, defy the aſſaults of the myriads of inſects that ſwarm in theſe low grounds. We repoſed, during the middle of the day, on the ſtraw of the great barn. Caſſano, a fief of the Serra Aragona family, is an epiſcopal city, about twelve miles from the ſea: it has mineral waters, ſulphureous baths, and a very fruitful territory.

After dinner we croſſed the river Sybaris, now the Coſcile, and entered the peninſula formed by that river and the Crathis, where a few degraded fragments of aqueducts and tombs indicate

indicate the ſpot on which ſtood the city of Sybaris, noted to a proverb in ancient hiſtory for the luxury and effeminacy of its inhabitants.

No poſition could have been more judiciouſly choſen for commerce or agriculture, as long as an extenſive population and induſtry kept the rivers under controul. Irrigation is, in ſo dry a climate, the life of huſbandry; but unleſs ſtrong quays and embankments confine the waters to their due courſe, and prevent their coming down upon the country at improper ſeaſons and in ſuperabundant quantities, ruin and peſtilence, inſtead of riches and health, are the neceſſary conſequences. Attention to the management of theſe two large ſtreams enſured fertility to the lands, and deep, ſafe channels for trading fleets. Many ages, alas! have now revolved, ſince Man inhabited theſe plains in ſufficient numbers to ſecure ſalubrity. The rivers have long rolled lawleſs and unreſtrained over theſe low deſolate fields, leaving, as they ſhrink back to their beds, black pools and

ſtinking ſwamps to poiſon the whole region, and drive mankind ſtill farther from its ancient poſſeſſions. Nothing in reality remains of Sybaris, which once gave law to four nations, reckoned twenty-five cities among its ſubjects, and could muſter three hundred thouſand fighting men. I do not think any remnants, now to be ſeen, date ſo far back as the old Sybaritan republic *.

Sybaris was one of the moſt ancient of the ſettlements formed by the Greeks on the Italian ſhore. The natural richneſs of its ſoil encouraged agriculture, which produced abundance of articles of commerce; and the convenience of the ſituation, between two conſiderable rivers, naturally led to a great exportation.—From theſe ſources wealth flowed copiouſly into the ſtate, and with it brought ſuch luxury and degeneracy of manners, as have excited the aſto-

* The materials of the ruins being brick, argue Roman rather than Grecian workmanſhip. I never met with bricks, in any undoubted Greek ruin, throughout Magna Græcia or Sicily.

niſhment

niſhment and indignation of all ancient writers. Many anecdotes are told us of the ſoft Sybarites; ſome ſcarcely credible, and all tending to ſhew how much that people ſacrificed every conſideration to the enjoyment of the preſent moment, and how eaſy a conqueſt they afforded their more needy and warlike neighbours. But Sybaris, before its hour of misfortune, had numbered many of glory and dominion. It had founded the city of Pæſtum on the Tyrrhene ſea; its armies had been numerous and formidable; its authority reſpected over a large range of country; and the wiſdom of its councils admired by the ſurrounding nations. The walls of the capital incloſed a ſpace of ſix miles and a half, and its ſuburbs extended near ſeven miles along the Crathis. What a noble ſight! what beauties this country muſt have diſplayed, when the impetuous torrents were kept under command, and only let off cautiouſly and regularly, to convey freſhneſs and fertility to the well-tilled thirſty fields!—when the banks of

the river were adorned with warehouſes, wherein the merchant depoſited his riches! and with elegant villas, and perfumed gardens, whither he retired to enjoy the fruits of his induſtry!—when its ſpacious plains teemed with harveſts, that, according to the teſtimony of Varro, repaid the huſbandman an hundred fold, and annually loaded large fleets of veſſels that crowded the mouths of its rivers!

After retracing all theſe circumſtances in my mind, I looked round me, and could not help thinking myſelf in a dream, or that the hiſtorians muſt have been dreaming, when they wrote of Sybaris. Seventy days, as Strabo ſays, ſufficed to deſtroy all this grandeur and proſperity. Five hundred and ſeventy-two years before the Chriſtian æra, the Crotoniates, under their famous Athleta Milo, defeated the Sybarites in a pitched battle, broke down the dams that kept out the Crathis, and let the furious ſtream into the town, where it ſoon overturned and ſwept away every building of uſe or ornament. The inhabitants

bitants were maſſacred without mercy; and the few that eſcaped the ſlaughter, and attempted to reſtore their city, were cut to pieces by a colony of Athenians, who afterwards removed to ſome diſtance, and founded Thurium *. The coins of Sybaris are among the moſt ancient known; being of the ſort called *Incuſi*, i. e. convex on one ſide, and concave on the reverſe. They bear a Bull, which I take to be an emblem of their ſubdued river, ſo long their friend and purveyor, but in the end an inſtrument of their deſtruction. The great works undertaken to drive back its waters, are probably expreſſed by the head of the animal being turned back on its ſhoulder †.

I have

* Modern authors place it at Terra Nova, four miles up the river; but Livy ſays expreſsly it was on the ſea-ſhore.

† Nummi Sybaritarum.

ARG. 1. Taurus ſtans retroflexo capite ΥΜ=Altera pars incuſſa.

2. Cap.P alladis=Taurus ΣΥΒΑ.

I have often wondered why the moſt outrageous barbarians, the moſt blood-thirſty conquerors, have found more favour at the hands both of their contemporaries and of poſterity, than the ſoft indolent Sybarites, who ſeem to have done harm to nobody, and whoſe faults originated in the affluent ſtate of their affairs, and the mild temperature of their climate, rather than in any miſchievous bent of character. I ſuſpect this virulence of abuſe ſprang from the deſire their enemies, and the partiſans of thoſe enemies, had, of giving a plauſible excuſe for the cruelty with which the Sybarites were treated; perhaps alſo from a ſpirit of envy at their enjoyments; or from the common character, of philoſophical declamations. Theſe being the production of a ſet of men of great poverty, ſour tempers, auſtere morals, and much polemical iraſcibility, were more fre-

3. Taurus=Vas incuſſum.

4. Taurus=Quatuor Glob. MY.

ÆR. 1. Taurus cap. reflexo TM=Incuſſus.

quently

quently employed to laſh the indulging voluptuary, than the bloody tyrant or ferocious raviſher; eſpecially as there was more danger in an attack upon the latter. Were the caſe otherwiſe, how ſhould we account for their ſpleen againſt theſe Epicures? for what compariſon is there between the culpability of a wealthy citizen, revelling in love and wine, pampered up with high-ſeaſoned viands and delicious liquors, repoſing in eaſy carriages and beds of down; and the guilt of an exterminating conqueror, who embrues his hands in the blood of thoſe half-ſlumbering debauchees, that he may poſſeſs himſelf of their ſpoils, and perhaps, in time, add their vices to his own native cruelty? Hiſtorians and orators, of all ages, have been guilty of this partiality. For my part, I cannot help feeling a degree of pity for the hard fate of the Sybarites, to whom we are indebted for the diſcovery of many moſt uſeful pieces of chamber and kitchen furniture. They appear to have been a people of great taſte, and

to

to have ſet the faſhion, in point of dreſs, throughout Greece. Their cooks, embroiderers, and confectioners were famous over all the polite world; and we may ſuppoſe their riding maſters did not enjoy a leſs brilliant reputation, ſince we are told of their having taught their horſes to dance to a particular tune. Alexis of Sybaris paſſes for being the inventor of fables or dialogues, in which the ſpeakers are all rational beings;—the prototype of the Drama; whereas Æſop and others had put their morality into the mouths of animals only.

After the deſtruction of Sybaris, Thurium became a conſiderable ſtate under the diſcipline of Charondas, who died a martyr to the ſpirit of his own laws. Having fixed the pain of death upon any citizen that ſhould enter the ſenate-houſe armed, and being reminded that in his hurry he had brought a ſword with him into the aſſembly, he immediately plunged it into his breaſt, and ſealed his decree with his own blood. Thurium flouriſhed long even under the dominion

nion of Rome, till falling to decay, it was judged expedient to ſend a colony thither; after which event it aſſumed the name of Copia *.

* Nummi Thurinorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. Palladis cum monſtro marino.=Taurus ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

ARG. 1. Cap. Pall.—Taurus cornupeta. piſcis ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

2. Cap. Pallad. elatum.=Taurus cornup. vict. ſupervol. cor. impon. ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

3. Cap. Pall. laur.=Taurus gradiens, piſcis—ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

4. Cap. Pall.=Semibos Θ.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Pall. gal.=Taurus corn. piſcis ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

2. Cap. Apoll.=Tripus ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

3. Cap. Apoll.=Lyra ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

4. Cap. imb. diad.=Homo nud. ſtans ΚΑΕΩΝ ΘΟΥΡΙΩΝ.

Nummi Copienſium.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Pallad. 4 globuli.=Cornucopiæ 4 glob. COΠΙΑ.

2. Cap. Herculis 3 glob.=Cornuc. 3 glob. L. CAIO COPIA.

3. Cap. Mercurii petaſat.=Cornuc. 3 glob. Q. P. C. COPIA.

Herodotus,

Herodotus, the father of hiſtory, died at Thurium. Auguſtus Cæſar was nicknamed Thurinus in his youth, either from his father's having governed this province, or from his family's deriving its origin from hence.

Suetonius made Adrian a preſent of a ſtatue of Auguſtus, with this name inſcribed on the baſe. Cicero and Antony both reproached him with the lowneſs of his origin, and aſſerted that his father, the firſt of the race who had attained any honours in the republic, was, in the beginning, no better than a money-ſcrivener; yet it is the common opinion, that this fortunate heir of Julius Cæſar ſprang from a rich equeſtrian family of Veletri.

SECTION

SECTION XXXIX.

WE ferried over the Crati, a fine broad river, clear and rapid. The ancients were of opinion, that its waters were medicinal, and had the faculty of tinging, of a fair or yellow colour, the hair of all who drank them conſtantly; and that thoſe of the Sybaris turned it black. They deemed it imprudent to drive cattle to drink at the Sybaris, as the water was apt to excite dangerous ſneezings and convulſions, being ſtrongly impregnated with mephitic gas.

For the next three miles, our evening ride was up a moſt beautiful ſloping hill, thickly planted with orange, lemon, citron, olive, almond, and other fruit-trees, which, by their contraſted ſhades of green, and the variety of their ſize and ſhape, compoſed one of the richeſt proſpects I ever beheld, even in Italy, that country

country of enchanting landſcape. I was enraptured with the beautiful ſcene, and almoſt intoxicated with perfumes. The river Crati iſſues out of a chaſm in the chain of mountains, forcing its boiſterous way to the Ionian ſea, which, though four miles from the place where I ſtood, appeared, in that bright atmoſphere, to lie cloſe to the foot of the hill, juſt edged with a ſlip of verdant paſture. The little town of Corigliano riſes boldly on the peak of the richly-clothed knoll, like the watch-tower and ſafeguard of all theſe natural treaſures. It is a dutchy belonging to the Saluzzi, a Genoeſe family, which has been for ſome years paſt annexed to the Seggio or ward of Porto at Naples. The buildings are rather better than thoſe of the other Calabrian towns I had paſſed near, and contain about eight thouſand inhabitants, who have an appearance of extreme poverty, and, like Tantalus, ſtarve in the midſt of plenty, though their lord has the reputation of being one of the moſt humane, as well as opulent,

feuda-

feudatories in the province. He has taken ſome pains to promote agriculture, and the breeding of horſes and cattle; but his ſucceſs has hitherto been inconſiderable.

It was a pleaſing and refreſhing circumſtance to meet whole droves of mules and aſſes laden with oranges juſt plucked. They were carrying them to the ſea ſhore, to be embarked in ſmall boats for Taranto and Gallipoli. The evening ſea-breeze, ſtrongly ſcented with the grateful effluvia, fanned me ſo delightfully, that with reluctance I entered the town, where I found the inn a very pitiful one, and infected with ſuch diſagreeable odours, as formed a woeful contraſt with the perfumed air I had lately breathed. I never entered a Venta in Spain that was not preferable to this, for ſmell, cleanlineſs, and proviſions. The route given me at Naples having made no mention of Corigliano as a ſleeping-ſtage, I came, without any letter, to the Duke's agent, and therefore was refuſed a bed in his manſion. Upon this denial, I took

up

up my lodging at the houſe of a dealer in oil. The maſter was abſent, and we ſaw nobody but an old woman ſervant: the reſt of the family kept themſelves locked up. I was ſo ill accommodated, that, as ſoon as it was poſſible next morning to get ready, I rode down to the plains through a moſt delightful country, which I cannot pretend to deſcribe in a manner to do it juſtice. On every ſide, fruits and flowers roſe in cluſters, freſhened by the morning air; the round heads of the orange-trees glowed with the rays of the ſun that was juſt riſing, and darting his beams along the ſurface of the ſea: the whole neighbourhood was enlivened by crowds of men and women ſinging as they deſcended the hill to their daily labour. Every production here is in the higheſt perfection it can poſſibly attain when unaſſiſted by art. The huſbandry of this province is ſlovenly, and the ſkill in gardening very ſuperficial. Both betray a want of emulation and intelligence. Climate and ſoil do more than half the work, and the hand

hand of diſpirited man is ſluggiſhly applied to the taſk; partial Nature empties the horn of plenty on his head, but from many fatal cauſes, her bounty contributes little to his welfare; whilſt we ſee, in more northern and leſs happy regions, the active enterpriſing labourer able to extort favours from her, and, with the leaſt gawdy of her riches, raiſe himſelf to comfort and independence.

The road in the plain is very pleaſant, under the ſhade of olive-trees or evergreen oaks, and through many tracts of very fine corn-fields; but at the end of ſix miles, it grows ſtony, ſteep, and rough, up to the very gates of Roſſano, which ſtands in a hollow, ſurrounded by fertile hills. There is nothing in this archiepiſcopal city that claims much notice; the buildings are mean, the ſtreets vilely paved and contrived. The number of inhabitants does not exceed ſix thouſand, who ſubſiſt by the ſale of their oil, the principal object of their attention,

though the territory produces a great deal of good wine and corn.

The lower parts of the hills that encircle this town are compoſed of *Breccia*, or pebbles, particles of marcaſites, mica, and lead, united together by means of a red bolar earth. There is no regularity in the ſtrata, nor appearance of any gradual ſubſidence; the upper parts are a tophus full of petrified pectinites, and other exuviæ, of which the analogous ſhell fiſh ſtill exiſts in theſe ſeas. From the numerous fragments of lead, and ſome bits of ſilver ore picked up in the torrents, I conjecture that the mountains to the weſtward contain mines of thoſe metals; though I have been aſſured by a judicious mineralogiſt of this country, that the accounts given by many writers of the Calabrian mines are vague exaggerations, and that nothing has yet been diſcovered but ſlender veins of ore, not likely to turn to any account in the working.

Roſſano

Roſſano probably owes its origin to the Roman Emperors, who conſidered it as a poſt equally valuable for ſtrength and convenience of traffick. The Marſans, a family of French extraction, poſſeſſed this territory, with the title of Prince, from the time of Charles the Second to that of Alphonſus the Second, when the laſt male heir was, by that Prince's order, put to death in Iſchia, where he was confined for treaſon *.

Roſſano

* This illuſtrious Houſe poſſeſſed extenſive domains in almoſt every province, and made that uſe of their power and wealth, which is but too common in kingdoms diſtracted by civil diſſentions and litigated titles. The Marſans were principals in all diſturbances, and took an active part in every commotion. Of theſe Princes, the moſt potent was Marino, long the inveterate foe, but finally the dupe, of Ferdinand the Firſt; a King who was far from being ſcrupulous in the means he employed to over-reach his enemies, or to rid himſelf of them when once in his power. In his treatment of Marino, the law of retaliation ſeems to plead his excuſe, as that giddy nobleman had, ſome time before his ruin, enticed the King to a confer-

Roſſano afterwards belonged to Bona, Queen of Poland, in right of her mother Iſabella, daughter to Alphonſus the Second, and at her deceaſe returned to the Crown. It was next in the poſſeſſion of the Aldobrandini, from whom the Borgheſi inherited it.

So late as the ſixteenth century, the inhabitants of this city ſpoke the Greek language, and followed the rite of the Eaſtern church. Here was formerly the moſt celebrated rendezvous of Baſilian monks in Magna Græcia. Of that body, the moſt conſpicuous member was Nilus, a ſaint of a very extraordinary character; for, during his whole life, he perſiſted in refuſing donations of lands, rents, and tenements, though

ence near Teano, and there attempted to murder him. The plan failed in the execution, from the conſternation and cowardice of the conſpirators. Marſan was kept twenty-five years in priſon; and then, to complete the extermination of the whole rebellious baronage, was, with many other noblemen, ſecretly executed, his fortunes for ever loſt, and his family annihilated.

he

he was the founder of many monaſteries. Dominichino, by his admirable freſco paintings in the church of Grotta Ferrata, near Rome, has made his legend more familiar to the dilettanti, than it is to the common run of devotees; for this ſaint, being a Greek, is in no very high repute in the Latin rubrick: the numerous founders and reformers of orders in ſubſequent times have engroſſed to themſelves almoſt the whole ſtock of homage; and I believe very few Romans ever heard his name, though he died in their neighbourhood. The Greek monks were the preſervers of books and literature in the ſouth of Italy; for the Lombards deſpiſed and neglected the ſciences. Charles the Bald invited learned men from Greece to inſtruct his ſubjects, and revive a taſte for learning among them. Theſe prieſts opened, in the convent of St. Nicholas, near Otranto, a famous ſchool, to which great numbers of ſtudents flocked, and received inſtruction gratis. The monaſtery

even ſupported thoſe ſcholars that wanted the means of providing for their own maintenance. The auſterity of life and profound learning of the Baſilian Cenobites, gained them the eſteem of princes and people, and procured them eſtabliſhments in the kingdom to the number of five hundred. They maintained their ground to the ſixteenth century, uſing the Greek idiom, but the Latin rite.

Pope John the Seventh, who was choſen in 705, was a native of Roſſano. Theologians blame him for his weakneſs, in yielding too much to the requeſts of the Emperor and the Eaſtern prelates.

SEC-

SECTION XL.

MY ſtay at Roſſano was very ſhort; as the guide was eager to ſet out, leſt we ſhould be benighted before we reached Cariati, between which place and Roſſano he aſſured me we ſhould find very indifferent accommodations. We rode all the afternoon in a moſt beautiful vale, cultivated with great neatneſs, and abounding with pulſe and vegetables of various ſorts. We paſſed ſeveral rivulets that water and fertilize theſe fields. The Trionto alone * deſerves the name of river, though not a navigable one, as ſome geographers ſtyle it. One of our horſes falling lame, we were obliged to take up our abode for the night at Mirti, a ſingle houſe, or *Fondaco*. This inn was better than I expected, and the hoſt very civil. He earneſtly recom-

* Anciently the Traeis.

mended to the ſervants to leave nothing out of doors, as there was an encampment of Zingari, or gypſies, in the neighbouring fields, who would lay their hands upon any part of the baggage that was not watched with ſtrict attention. His caution led me to an enquiry into the ſtate of this ſtrange tribe of vagabonds, of whom I had ſeen great numbers in Spain. The reſult of his accounts, combined with thoſe I have received from other hands, is as follows:

The gypſies of Calabria do not contract alliances with any other claſs of inhabitants, but marry among themſelves. It is not poſſible to ſay where they reſide, as they have no fixed habitation, conſequently poſſeſs neither houſe nor land; but wherever they think proper to make any ſtay, pitch their tents. They ſupport life by the profits of little handicrafts, but more by thoſe of ſwopping aſſes and horſes, which they will do for the ſmalleſt trifle to boot; nay, one has been known to truck his aſs with another for a glaſs of wine. They gene-

rally

rally work in iron, and make trivets, knitting-needles, bodkins, and ſuch baubles. Their dreſs is extremely ſhabby; they ſhave their chins, but indulge a great length of hair, which they ſeldom diſturb with either comb or ſciſſars. As to their religion, it is a ſecret they keep locked up in their own breaſts. They ſeem to have no great veneration for the Virgin Mary; but are ſuppoſed to believe in Chriſt. All the proof we have of their belief depends upon appearance, and an occaſional conformity to the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church in marriage, burials, &c.; but if the prieſts ſtart any difficulties, they manage the matter without interference, and perform the functions according to their own cuſtoms; which in many points reſemble thoſe of the Heathens. At their weddings they carry torches, and have paranymphs to give the bride away, with many other unuſual rites. It is in reality almoſt an abſurdity to talk of the religion of a ſet of people whoſe moral character is ſo depraved, as to make it

evident

evident they believe in nothing capable of being a check upon their paſſions. They are univerſally accounted to be pilferers, cheats, faithleſs, ſhameleſs, and abandoned to all manner of diſſoluteneſs. The following anecdote will ſhew how little they are under the control of modeſty, or fear of ſhame. A gang of gypſies aſſembled at the fair of Marſico Nuovo, with an intention of robbing the ſhops, for which purpoſe a proper number of them were diſperſed in the throng. To draw off the merchants by ſome very extraordinary incitement to curioſity, was the next point to be conſidered; and with this view they adopted an expedient that would have ſhocked the moſt hardened libertine. Some of their men and women went into the adjacent fields, and there proceeded to ſuch indecent liberties, as ſoon brought moſt of the people of the fair about them, and left their ſhops a prey to the confederate thieves.

Contracts and plighting of faith are by them eſteemed mere empty forms; and whenever the breach

breach promiſes more advantage than the obſervance, they never heſitate a moment. No cheats can be more artful or impudent. When they bring their aſſes to ſale, they prick their ſhoulders with very ſmall needles ſet in a piece of cork, which makes the poor animals bound like deer. The unſuſpecting chapman thinks he buys the fleeteſt of beaſts, and perhaps finds, upon trial, that he has purchaſed a dull, reſtive, foundered grizel. The gypſies have a way of throwing down the mules and aſſes they wiſh to buy, and thereby depreciating their merit *. They tell fortunes, and play juggling tricks, as they do in all other countries where they are tolerated. In 1560, they were baniſhed the kingdom as thieves, cheats, and ſpies for the Turks. In 1569, and 1585, the order was renewed, but, not being enforced, had little effect.

* When they travel through a country where herds of horſes and aſſes are ſuffered to wander without a keeper, they ſteal them, by caſting over their necks a ball of lead faſtened to a thong.

A gypſy

A gypſy being brought to trial for larceny, declared, That his law allowed him to take from others as much every day as ſufficed for his maintenance. Theſe people make uſe of two languages, one Calabrian, with a foreign accent and pronunciation; the other, a peculiar one of their own; which, in ſound, ſeems to bear a great affinity to the Oriental tongues, and is ſpoken when they have ſecrets to impart to each other.

One of the moſt intelligent of the crew being aſked, Why his nation was a wandering one? replied, That they cannot remain in a place above a few days without being over-run with lice. This propenſity to breed vermin proceeds from their exceſſive filthineſs. They ſleep like dogs in a kennel, huddled altogether, men, women, and children, taking up no more room aſleep than if they were dead and buried, which crowding muſt cauſe a heat and fermentation extremely favourable to the multiplication of nauſeous inſects.

On

On the 10th of May we travelled along the ſhore, having high land on our right. The numberleſs beds of torrents, which we were obliged to croſs, made the road very unpleaſant. The firſt place we came to was Cariati, a principality belonging to the Spinelli, one of the moſt opulent feudatory families, divided into ſeveral branches, and poſſeſſed of very capital fiefs in Calabria *. This city is ſmall, and thinly inhabited, on account of the weakneſs of its ſituation, and dread of the Turks, who, before a treaty was concluded with the Porte, were continually ravaging this coaſt. Its ca-

* This family came from Somma, and is not mentioned in the chronicles before the year 1224. The man who laid the foundation of this wealth was John Baptiſt Spinelli, conſervator of the royal patrimony under Ferdinand the Catholic, to whom he recommended himſelf by the vigilance with which he watched the motions of the Viceroy Gonſalvo de Cordova. Ferdinand, on his arrival at Naples, diſtinguiſhed John very much, and gave, or enabled him to purchaſe, Cariati and other conſiderable eſtates, ſince augmented by the prudence of his deſcendants.

thedral

thedral is a very heavy Gothic ſtructure, dedicated to St. Peter, and the only pariſh. The ſurrounding hills are gay, and pleaſingly covered with fruit-trees; the woods behind them produce manna of excellent quality; much Turkey wheat is cultivated in the lands below, and extenſive paſtures afford luxuriant and wholeſome ſuſtenance to a great ſtock of oxen, buffaloes, ſheep, goats, and ſwine. In Calabria, all the oxen are white, large, and long-horned, except thoſe of the red breed, which have been introduced from Sicily by the Princes of Cariati and Geraci. I never ſaw buffaloes of any colour but black; and moſt of the goats, ſheep, and hogs are of that hue. The laſt ſpecies have no hair, but are as ſleek in the hide as an elephant. This country abounds with game of the leſſer feathered tribes, ſuch as doves, quails, and other birds of paſſage. Dormice are here accounted delicate game, as they were in ancient Rome, where they were kept in warrens, and fatted for the tables of the moſt refined epicures.

The

The hair of theſe animals is here more generally grey than ruſſet. They are ſmoked out of their neſts in hollow trees, and caught with ſharp hooks. Their ſkins make very fine leather.—The ſea of Cariati abounds with fiſh. At a place called Terra Vecchia, eaſt of the city, are the ſlight remains of Paternum.

After dinner, we travelled four miles through arable lands of a ſtrong clayey ſoil, where the courſe of huſbandry is, to take a crop of wheat, and then to leave the field fallow two years for paſturage. We afterwards croſſed hilly olive-grounds, covered with looſe ſtones, under which I found ſome ſtrata of compact grindſtone, and lumps of whetſtone, of a good quality. At the foot of theſe hills runs the Aquanile, which, both from name and poſition, I take to be the Hylias, anciently the limit between Sybaris and Croton. On its banks the Crotoniates gained the victory which made them maſters of the Sybaritan territory. They were led to battle by Milo the wreſtler, equipped like Hercules, with

with club and lion's ſkin, and crowned with the prize-wreathes he had won at the Olympic games.

My intention was to have ſlept at the town of Ciro, which ſeems to ſtand on the ſite of Crimiſſa, a city founded by Philoctetes, the friend, and, to his coſt, the heir of Hercules. But being aſſured that I ſhould meet with neither accommodations nor proviſions at that place, I preferred remaining below in the plain, at a ſingle houſe, where my apartment was none of the beſt; but I had ſeen worſe; and the civility of the people made amends for inconveniences. Ciro is a very poor place, containing about ſix thouſand inhabitants; it belongs to Spinelli, Prince of Tarſia, who monopolizes all the ſilk made by his vaſſals. The territory produces alſo very fine oil and corn, execrable wine, but good water. This town, though by no means in an unhealthy ſituation, affords a livelihood to ſix doctors in phyſick.

The

The evening was mild and ſtill; I ſpent it in a ſolitary walk along the beach of Cape Alice, the moſt eaſtern point of the Calabrian coaſt, except the Lacinian or Crotonian promontory. It was famous for a temple of Apollo Halyus, of which I could not diſcover the ſmalleſt veſtige; the waves of the ſea having covered, or the hand of man removed, every ſtone of it. During ſupper, the keeper of the neighbouring watch-tower came to pay me a viſit. A glaſs or two of wine reſtored that liberty to his tongue which reſpect had reſtrained; and, after endeavouring to impreſs me with a high idea of his courage, and the havock he would make with his ſingle gun in an army of Algerines, he entertained me with ſeveral anecdotes of his brother-warders; one of which I noted for its ſingularity. Part of the crew of a Barbary veſſel had landed near a maritime tower, with an intent of plundering a village on

the coaſt; when their progreſs was impeded, and their fury diverted, by the watchman's ſhooting their Reys through the head from the battlements. The Infidels flew to the foot of the tower, and attacked it with great fury. In ſpite of the fire and other efforts of the defender, they had almoſt reached the top; when the poor Calabrian, finding his ammunition gone, and his caſe deſperate, bethought himſelf of a ſingular engine of defence. He ſnatched up ſome bee-hives that ſtood on the platform, and, running round the parapet, ſhook out the angry inſects upon the aſſailants; who, ſtung to the quick, and terrified with this incomprehenſible, miraculous attack, were glad to relinquiſh the ſcalado, and plunge into the water, to deliver themſelves from their cruel antagoniſts. It is not every warder that can ſtrike out ſuch reſources in generalſhip; and without them his poſt is ſcarcely tenable; for the towers are but indifferently conſtructed, or provided for reſiſtance:

ance: they are ſquare and bulky, and not very lofty. The door is about half-way up, with a ladder, which is taken in at night; over this is a terrace, on which is placed a cannon, more for the purpoſe of alarming the coaſt, than ſinking the boats of an enemy. I was told at Rome, by an inſpector of theſe forts, that, in the courſe of his viſitation, he came once to a tower, where the guard, in anſwer to the uſual queries concerning his ſkill and care of the artillery, led him into the room under the battery, and pointing to a packthread ſteeped in brimſtone, that hung through a crevice in the cieling from the touch-hole of the cannon, informed him, that he had found out that to be the ſafeſt and moſt expeditious method of diſcharging the piece.

SECTION XLI.

THE next day we arrived at Cotrone for dinner; having baited in the plain below Strongoli, a city on a rugged mountain, ſuppoſed to be the ancient Petelia *. Philoctetes firſt ſettled a colony at Petelia, which afterwards became the capital of the Lucanians, and made a conſpicuous figure, in the ſecond

* Nummi Petelinorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. barb. galeat.=Victoria gradiens d. coron. ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

2. Cap. imb. rad.=Tripus. T. ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

3. Cap. mul. velat.=Jupiter fulminans ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

4. Cap. Jovis=Jup. fulm. tripus ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

5. Cap. Jovis.=Fulmen. T. ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

6. Cap. Apoll.=Figura mulieb. grad. d. ſtyl. ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ. duo glob.

7. Cap. Herculis=Clava ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

8. Cap. mul.=Canis. ΠΕΤΗΑΙΝΩΝ.

Punic

Punic war, by its obſtinate reſiſtance to Hannibal. Marcellus, the illuſtrious rival of that hero, periſhed in a ſkirmiſh near its walls. Strongoli belongs to a Pignatelli, who keeps a large ſtud of horſes in the waſte lands near the ſea. The Calabrian horſes are pretty, ſpirited, and brilliant in their motions, but in general low, and ſeldom free from vice. I know by experience that they can go through ſevere fatigue, having rode a ſmall one, in hot weather, five ſucceſſive days, at the rate of fifty miles a day. This breed is not attended to with all the care it deſerves; for the prohibition of exportation renders the owners much more indifferent about the perfection of their horſes than they would be, if there were a demand from other countries, and a briſk ſale allowed, to excite their emulation. Another cauſe of neglect lies in the exceſſive badneſs of the roads in this mountainous country, where mules, being much more hardy and enduring, are fitter for ſervice, and conſequently more marketable.

They carry upwards of three cantara through the moſt difficult, dangerous ways imaginable, without ſtumbling.—The Barons have no excluſive feudal right to breed horſes, though ſome of them arrogate to themſelves a monopoly by violence. We paſſed the Nieto * in a boat. The air is unwholeſome on the banks of this river, which divides the two Calabrias; but the herbage muſt be incomparable, if I may judge from the delicacy and ſweetneſs of the milk and cream cheeſes, for which this canton is renowned.

Cotrone has ſucceeded to the Greek city of Croton, but does not cover the ſame extent of ground. I was aſſured that in ſummer this climate is unhealthy; a misfortune that cannot proceed from local cauſes; for the ſalubrity of Croton was famous to a proverb among the ancients. The Eſaro, which flowed through the very centre of the old town, now runs in a

* Anciently Neœthus.

ſhallow

ſhallow ſtony bed, at a conſiderable diſtance north of the gates.

Great works have been conſtructed, in the preſent reign, to form a harbour for this town. Time will ſhew whether the exertions of miniſtry have been directed by ſkill and judgment; and whether the obſtacles, that heretofore prevented veſſels from riding in ſafety before Cotrone, have been ſufficiently removed and guarded againſt for the future. The entrance of the new haven is open to the north and north-eaſt winds; points of the compaſs from which very boiſterous blaſts ruſh down the Adriatic, acroſs the Tarentine gulph, though perhaps leſs tremendous than the Scirocco and ſoutherly winds. As the hills and projection of the capes protect Cotrone from ſtorms on the ſouth quarter, I am ſurpriſed the engineers did not direct the mouth of the haven more eaſterly: the entrance would have been eaſier, and the veſſels leſs diſturbed while in port. However, as I pretend to no technical knowledge in the engineering

line, but ſpeak from rude gueſs and curſory obſervation, I am willing to believe there were ſufficient reaſons for proceeding on the plan that has been adopted. Perhaps the weight of water rolled up the gulph might create a dangerous ſwell, or ſands might in time accumulate at the paſſage, if the harbour lay open to the eaſt. But it is the opinion of many ſenſible obſervers, that greater advantages might have been procured for the money, and that very great additional expence is requiſite to complete the undertaking. I ſhould no doubt have judged more favourably of an enterprize, which, like the hand of a Creator, forms a port, where the ancient mariners deſpaired of procuring ſecure anchorage,—had I not been informed that the venerable fragments of the old city, its ſuburbs and temples, had been dilapidated, to furniſh materials for the piers and buttreſſes. This was a very trifling ſaving, in ſo expenſive a concern; and appears a piece of extraordinary barbariſm in miniſters, that plumed themſelves upon their

exca-

excavations at Herculaneum, and the care with which they preſerved the precious monuments of antiquity *. Cotrone is fortified with ſingle walls, and a caſtle erected by Charles the Fifth. Its private buildings are poor and ſordid; the ſtreets diſmal and narrow: ill-humour, miſery, and deſpondency were ſtrongly depicted in the countenance of every inhabitant I met. There is very little buſtle; little commercial hurry; cheeſe and corn are the principal commodities. For the ſtowage of corn, there are ranges of granaries in the ſuburbs; and the annual export is about two hundred thouſand tomoti. The cheeſe is tolerably good: but has a great deal of that hot, acrid taſte, ſo common to all cheeſe made with goat's milk. The wine is not unpleaſant, and appears ſuſceptible of improvement, by better management in the making and keeping.

* The harbour is capable of containing a conſiderable number of merchant-ſhips, but none above the tonnage of a Polacca. The mouth of the port is marked by two light-houſes.

This

This being the actual ſtate of the town, let us caſt a view back upon its ſituation in thoſe ages, when four republics, founded by Grecian refugees, gave the law to the ſhores of the Tarentine, Ionian, and part of the Tyrrhenian ſeas; when neither the Lucanians nor Bruttians had aſſembled together in ſufficient numbers, amidſt their mountainous receſſes, to diſturb or oppoſe the dominion of theſe colonies. I ſhall form no conjectures concerning Hercules or Myſcellus, the ſuppoſed founders of Croton; but take for granted that it was occupied by navigators from Achaia; and that their poſterity roſe by virtue and valour to the higheſt eminence of fame among the ſons of Greece. But this valour, this virtue, appear to have been called forth by the wholeſome precepts and ſevere inſtitutes of the Pythagorean ſchool. Pythagoras, after his long peregrinations in ſearch of knowledge, fixed his reſidence in this place, which ſome authors think his native one, at leaſt that of his parents, ſuppoſing him to have been

been born in the iſle of Samos, and not at ſome town of that name in Italy. This incomparable ſage ſpent the latter part of his life in training up diſciples to the rigid exerciſe of ſublime and moral virtue, and inſtructing the Crotoniates in the true arts of government, ſuch as alone can inſure happineſs, glory, and independence.

Under the influence of this philoſophy, the Crotoniates inured their bodies to frugality and hardſhips, and their minds to ſelf-denial and patriotic diſintereſtedneſs. Their virtues were the admiration of Greece, where it was a current proverb, that the laſt of the Crotoniates was the firſt of the Greeks. In one Olympiad, ſeven of the victors in the games were citizens of Croton; and the name of Milo is almoſt as famous as that of Hercules. The vigour of the men, and beauty of the women, were aſcribed to the climate, which was believed to be endowed with qualities peculiarly favourable to the human ſyſtem. Their phyſicians were in high repute; among

among theſe, Alcmeon and Democides rendered themſelves moſt conſpicuous. Alcmeon was the firſt who dared to amputate a limb, in order to ſave the life of a patient; and alſo the firſt writer who thought of inculcating moral precepts under the amuſing cloak of apologues. This invention is more commonly attributed to Æſop, as he was remarkably ingenious in this ſpecies of compoſition. Democides was famous for his attachment to his native ſoil. Though careſſed and enriched by the King of Perſia, whoſe queen he had ſnatched from the jaws of death, he abandoned wealth and honours, and by ſtratagem eſcaped to the humble comforts of a private life at Croton.—The Pythagoreans are ſaid to have diſcovered that diſpoſition of the ſolar ſyſtem, which, with ſome modifications, has been revived by Copernicus, and is now univerſally received, as being moſt agreeable to nature and experiment. Theano, the wife of Pythagoras, and many

other women, emulated the virtues of their huſband *.

In

* Nummi Crotonorum.

AUR. 1. Cap. Mul. ⚌ Hercules ſedens aquam verſ. KPOTΩNIATAN.

ARG. 1. Tripus ♀ ▷ o. Incuſſus.

2. Idem cum ave.

3. Tripus ♀ ▷ o. avis. ⚌ Aquila capite reverſo.

4. Facies plena diad. cum monili. ⚌ Hercules ſed. ſup. exuvias leon. d. vas. ſuprà arcus clava & pharetra KPOTONIATAN.

5. Fac. pl. diad. cum mon. ⚌ Hercules tectus pelle leon. aquam fundens ex vaſe in tripodem— clava KPOTON. OΣ.

6. Cap. Apollinis diad. ⚌ Hercules ſtrang. leon.

7. Cap. Apoll. laur. KPOTΩNIATAN. ⚌ Civitas murata. ſuprà fulmen in muris victoria et eques.

8. Aquila fulm. inf. ⚌ Tripus, cornucop. KPO.

9. Tripus. Ɛ. KPOTONIATAN.—Aquila volans ung. palmæ ramum tem.

10. Sæpia. ⚌ Tripus cum ave ♀ ▷ o.

11. Cap. Apoll. ⚌ Lyra.

12. Avis ⚌ Taurus ♀ —v. ſtella cochlea.

ÆR. 1. Herculis cap. KPO. ⚌ Tripus ϚY.

2. Cap.

In thoſe fortunate days the ſtate of Croton was moſt flouriſhing. Its walls incloſed a circumference of twelve miles. Of all the colonies ſent out from Greece, this alone furniſhed ſuccour to the mother-country when invaded by the Perſians. By its avenging arms the Sybarites were puniſhed for their ſhameful degeneracy; but victory proved fatal to the conquerors; for riches, and all their pernicious attendants, inſinuated themſelves into Croton, and ſoon contaminated the purity of its principles. Indeed, the very conſtitution of human-nature militates againſt any long continuance in ſuch rigid practices of virtue; and therefore it is no wonder if the Crotoniates fell by degrees into the irregularities they once abhorred. Not long after, the Locrians, who were leſs corrupted, defeated them on the banks of the Sagra, and reduced the republick to diſtreſs and penury. This re-

2. Cap. Jovis.=3 lunæ et ſtellæ.

3. Cap. Cereris.=Tres lunæ KPO.

4. Cap. imb.=3 lunæ KPO.

ſtored

ſtored the remaining Crotoniates to their priſtine vigour of mind, and enabled them to make a brave, though unſucceſsful reſiſtance, when attacked by Dionyſius of Syracuſe. They ſuffered much in the war with Pyrrhus, and, by repeated misfortunes, decreaſed in ſtrength and numbers, from age to age, down to that of Hannibal, when they could not muſter twenty thouſand inhabitants. This ſmall population being incapable of manning the extenſive works erected in the days of proſperity, Croton was taken by the Carthaginians, and its citizens tranſported to Locri. The Romans ſent a colony hither two hundred years before Chriſt. In the Gothic war, this city rendered itſelf conſpicuous by its fidelity to Juſtinian, and Totila beſieged it long in vain. In one of the campaigns, during the war between Charles of Anjou and Frederick of Aragon, the latter not only drove his rival out of Sicily, but purſued his advantages into Calabria, where his fortunate admiral, Roger Lauria, obtained a complete

plete victory over the Provençal party. The next ſtep taken by the conqueror was to inveſt Cotrone, which made no long defence, but ſent out commiſſioners to propoſe a capitulation. During the negociation, the Sicilians, taking advantage of the ſecurity and negligence of the beſieged, entered the city by ſurpriſe, and plundered it without mercy. The admiral inſiſted upon reſtitution being made; but Frederick could not prevail upon himſelf to relinquiſh a prize already won, and, by this refuſal to do juſtice to Lauria's warranty, provoked him to join the Angevines, and become a moſt formidable opponent.

A branch of the Houſe of Rufo was long in poſſeſſion of the fief of Cotrone. Henrietta, their heireſs, was deſtined, by Alphonſus the Firſt, to be the wife of his favourite, Inigo de Avalos; but ſhe fell in love with, and married, Antony Centeglia, who had been ſent by Alphonſus to ſettle the preliminaries of the match. Centeglia ſoon felt the weight of royal vengeance;

geance; was beſieged in Catanzaro, and obliged to ſurrender at diſcretion. The King confined both him and his wife in Naples, where they ſpent many years in poverty and obſcurity. On the demiſe of Alphonſus, Antony eſcaped to Calabria, and excited that province to revolt. The beginning of his enterprize was ſucceſsful; but upon his being worſted and taken priſoner, all the hopes of his party vaniſhed, and his family ſank again into miſery.

SECTION XLII.

IN order to vary the ſcene, I hired a boat to carry me round the capes, while my horſes proceeded the ſhorteſt way to Catanzaro. By this plan I had an opportunity of ſeeing ſome places that lie out of the direct route by land.

We ſoon doubled Cape Nau, and darting through a ſhallow bay full of ſhelves and iſlets, landed at Cape delle Colonne, known in ancient geography by the name of the Lacinian Promontory, which, with the promontory of Salentum, or St. Maria di Leuca, forms the mouth of the Tarentine Gulf, ſeventy miles wide. The land is very high, the rocks coarſe granite, and breccia. On a point impending over the waves, are ſome ſcattered ſtones, and a few regular courſes of building, ſaid to be the ruins of the ſchool of Pythagoras, and of the temple of Juno Lacinia. About forty years ago, two columns of this edifice were ſtill ſtanding. One has long been deſtroyed; the other ſtill remains ſtanding upon a foundation of large ſtones cut into facets, and ſerves as a land-mark for navigators. Its order differs little from that of the columns at Metapontum; but ſome bricks, which appear intermixed with the ſtone-work, create a doubt in my mind, whether theſe fragments appertain to any building ſo ancient

ancient as the Crotonian republic. It may have been rebuilt by the Romans, and the old columns made to ſerve again. This conjecture acquires weight by what hiſtory tells us of the Cenſor Fulvius Flaccus having ſtripped the roof of its marble flags, to cover a temple he had dedicated in Rome. The covering was ſent back by order of the ſenate; but from a want of ſlaters able to replace it properly, the edifice remained unroofed, and was probably deſtroyed by the weather. Reideſel ſuppoſes theſe ruins to have been part of Croton; but that is not poſſible, as they are ſeven miles from the Eſaro, which we know divided the town into two parts. In my opinion, they are more likely to be remains of the college of Juno's prieſts, or of the ſtalls for her numerous herds and flocks, that ranged undiſturbed over the lawns and under the groves. Few places of worſhip drew ſo many pilgrims as this temple. At ſtated ſeaſons, the roads of Italy and Greece were thronged with parties of devotees marching, with expia-

tory preſents and votive offerings, towards the ſhrine of the goddeſs. Such a conflux of ſacrifices ſwelled the holy treaſure to an incredible value. Among heaps of ornaments of the moſt precious materials, was diſtinguiſhed a column of ſolid gold. In a word, this wealth was the prototype of the golden wainſcot, maſſive lamps, and diamond crowns, of Loreto. But Loreto has been hitherto more fortunate, or better protected, than Lacinium, which frequently excited the cupidity, and became the prey, of ſacrilegious conquerors. This temple was the ſcene of a barbarous action committed by Hannibal, if we are to believe the Romans, who, by deſtroying all records of Punic hiſtory, have taken care to prevent our bringing any proof againſt their aſſertions. They write, that Hannibal, finding himſelf under the neceſſity of obeying the ſummons of the Carthaginian ſenate, aſſembled all his Italian allies in this temple, and there cauſed ſuch as refuſed to

embark

embark with him for Carthage, to be maſſacred by his African ſoldiers.

The view from this headland is very extenſive. I returned to my boat, and kept under the ſhore till we had paſſed three other capes, when night coming on, we were obliged to run into a cove on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of Capo Rizzuto, the northern head of the Squillacean Gulf, as Capo di Stilo is the ſouthern one. My boatmen were very anxious to draw the felucca on ſhore, and ſhelter themſelves from danger under the gun of a watch-tower. They were much afraid leſt any Barbary rovers ſhould be lurking among the iſlands and creeks; though, from all their accounts, I could not find that they were often troubled with their viſits. The crew ſet up an awning, and prepared ſupper, perfectly ſatisfied with the ſafeguard of the tower, though ten Algerines would have been an overmatch for us and our protectors. I took a moon-light walk by the ſea-ſide, and ſpent an hour very agreeably. When I re-

turned to my company, they expoſtulated with me on the raſhneſs of my venturing out alone; and ſeeing me laugh at their apprehenſions, nodded at each other, and agreed together, that I could not be ſo bold, unleſs I had a charm about me. This remark excited my curioſity; and upon enquiry I learned, that in Calabria there are certain old women who fabricate taliſmans on bits of parchment, which they ſell for eighteen ducats to the bravos that can afford to lay out ſo much money. This charm is ſuppoſed to render the wearer invulnerable; and as a preliminary ſecurity, a piſtol is fired at it: but care is taken to qualify the charge ſo as to drive the ball but feebly againſt the mark. The purchaſer, confident of ſafety, lays the amulet upon his breaſt, attacks his adverſaries without fear, and generally, by his daring appearance, ſtrikes them with a panic *.

Before

* I have ſince procured one of theſe pieces of witchcraft from a prieſt, who had obliged a penitent of his to give it up,

Before day-break we puſhed off our boat, and rowed over to an iſland marked in every map as the habitation of Calypſo. Things muſt have changed wonderfully ſince the time of Ulyſſes, or the goddeſs have daily worked a miracle in providing food, without which ſupernatural aſſiſtance the ſhipwrecked hero had died of hunger: at preſent this rock would ſcarcely maintain a ſheep. Some thickets of lentiſcus,

up, as belonging to wicked practices ſtrictly forbidden by the church.

It was couched exactly in theſe terms:

+

+ Anna Pariote

Incanto la tua perſona ardente da parte di Chriſto
innipotente da parte del ciorno di natale per
le tre meſſe cheſi diſino in cielo ſi ſcriſſino
+lunedi ſanto+marte diſanto+mercodiſanto+
Ciovediſanto+Vennardiſanto+Sabatoſanto da tutte
Magarie ſia yuardata cirieleiſon Chriſtoeleiſon
corpo di Chriſto ſalvate+Aglio+taglio et faglio
+lega mane piede e core a chi offennare mi uoli
Sangue di Chriſto commoglia metu+.

and other bruſhwood, are the only repreſentatives of the tall trees which the Ithacan chief felled for the conſtruction of his veſſel. Scholiaſts have fixed Calypſo's iſle at Cape Rizzuto, becauſe it is directly eaſt of Corfu, whither Ulyſſes ſteered with a weſt wind; but unleſs Homer talked of imaginary land, hidden from mankind, as the etymology of the words Ortygia and Calypſo imply, or, from the ſcarcity of geographical helps in that age, was ignorant of the true diſtances of places, it is difficult to reconcile matters to probability, I won't ſay truth, becauſe a poet is not ſuppoſed to be ſtrictly bound to it. Corcyra or Corfu, the land of the Phæacians, which is not a night's ſail from Ithaca, is ſcarcely one hundred miles diſtant from Italy, and therefore could not require ſeventeen days ſailing with a proſperous gale. Homer, in the opinion of Strabo and the moſt enlightened critics, had travelled much, and did not raiſe his epic building merely upon the ſhadowy baſis of fiction;—the voyages of

Ulyſſes

Ulyſſes had been handed down by tradition, and to ſome well-known ſtories he added poetical embelliſhments. Perhaps the ſea has covered large tracts of land near this cape, and the rocky iſlets we ſtill perceive above the waters, may be no more than the tops of the hills that roſe upon the beautiful plains where Calypſo and her nymphs were ſaid to wander. When, on conſidering Homer's narrative with attention, I find Ulyſſes is driven back into Charybdis by a ſouth wind, gets again upon the wreck, and congratulates himſelf upon his paſſing unnoticed under the jaws of Scylla, which was north of the whirlpool, I think it evident he was not carried into the Ionian, but the Mediterranean ſea, or, perhaps the ocean, where he was hurried away before the wind during nine days and nine nights, till he reached the iſland of Ortygia. The Baleares in one, or the Fortunate Iſles in the other, afforded room enough for the goddeſs's eſtabliſhment; and from thence he might very

very well be ſeventeen days before he ſaw Corfu riſe like a buckler on the ſea.

I found no charms on the iſland powerful enough to detain me; and therefore, after a breakfaſt on prawns and limpets, caught and dreſſed by my ſteerſman, I put off, and doubling the cape, entered the Gulph of Squillace. The rocks are compoſed of pebbles, ſand, and ſhells, united together.

SECTION XLIII.

THE ſky was overcaſt, and threatened rain, which made us keep cloſe to the ſhore. We rowed round the little harbour of Caſtelle, probably the place formerly called Caſtra Hannibalis, from which that able, but ill-ſeconded general, embarked for Carthage *. As we ſailed

* D'Anville places it near Squillace, from a perſuaſion that Pliny and Solinus fix Hannibal's camp in the narroweſt

ſailed along, the man at the helm pointed out to me ſeveral inland towns of little note, but beautiful objects from the ſea. Cutro was one, remarkable for having given birth to Galeni, a renegado, who, in the ſixteenth century, roſe to great honour at the Ottoman Porte, and, by the name of Ulucciali Baſſa, commanded the Turkiſh fleet, was Viceroy of Algiers and Tunis, and became one of the greateſt ſcourges of Chriſtendom. In the height of his proſperity, he was deſirous of beſtowing a part of his wealth upon his aged mother, who lived in poverty at Cutro; but that ſpirited old woman refuſed to accept of the ſmalleſt token from a ſon, who had forſaken the religion of his fa-

roweſt ſpot of the whole iſthmus; but it appears to me they only meant, that the port from which he took his departure was ſituated in the Gulph of Squillace, between which and that of St. Eufemia, Italy is not quite twenty miles broad. The name of a tower called Torre d'Annibale, a little to the weſt of this bay, is ſome proof that d'Anville miſtook the ſenſe of the above-mentioned authors.

thers,

thers, and profeſſed himſelf the ſworn enemy of Chriſtianity.

Belcaſtro was another town in view, diſtinguiſhed by the birth of Saint Thomas di Aquino, whoſe father was Lord of this city. The good Calabreſe think the ſtain of having produced ten thouſand Uluccialis, perfectly wiped away by the glory of having one ſuch Doctor of the Church for their countryman *.

Cropani was alſo in ſight, once a flouriſhing town, but reduced by earthquakes to a ruinous village. The country about it, is a gay mixture of bean and corn-fields, vineyards, and tufts of walnut and mulberry-trees, a rich variety very unuſual in a marine proſpect. Several

* This Dominican ſaint was full as good a gentleman as the founder, St. Dominick de Guſman. The Houſe of Aquino derived its pedigree from the Lombard Princes of Capua, one of whom, in the tenth century, granted the county of Aquino in Terra di Lavoro to his ſon Adinolf. When it became again cuſtomary to diſtinguiſh families by ſurnames, the deſcendants of Adinolf aſſumed that of their earldom.

rivers,

rivers, emptying their waters into the ſea, make bold breaks in the hills, and produce charming accidents of light and ſhadow.

On the banks of the Litrello, one of the many ſtreams we ſaw, is a little village called Maliſano, fixed upon by the Spaniards for the birth-place of a man who, in 1600, gave the Court of Madrid a great deal of uneaſineſs. Parrino, one of the moſt ſervile flatterers among the court-writers, gives us, in his Theatre of Viceroys, the following curious account of this extraordinary perſonage: "This year there "came to Naples a famous impoſtor, who pre- "tended to be the King of Portugal. This "man was a Calabreſe of Maliſano, a village "near Taverna, by name Marco Tullio Coti- "ſone, who went to Padua in a pilgrim's dreſs, "and ſaid he was Don Sebaſtian. He was ſeized "by order of the ſtate, ſent to Venice, and for- "mally interrogated. To the queſtions put to "him he made anſwer, That the ſtory of his "death had been vamped up by the Spaniards; "that he had eſcaped from the battle, and tra-

"velled

" velled to Jeruſalem, to fulfil a vow he had
" made in the moment of danger. As a proof
" of the identity of his perſon, beſides the
" likeneſs of features, ſimilarity of ſtature, and
" Portugueſe language, which he ſpoke in per-
" fection, he ſhewed one arm longer than the
" other, a remarkable and uncommon defect
" that had been obſerved in the King. What
" moſt aſtoniſhed the ſenate, was his quickneſs
" of repartee, judgment in political matters,
" dignity of behaviour, princely carriage, and
" the minute account he gave of the private
" propoſals, anſwers, and negociations between
" that Prince and the Venetian Ambaſſadors at
" Liſbon. However, as it was well known Don
" Sebaſtian could not be alive, ſince King
" Philip had redeemed his body of the Moors
" for an hundred thouſand ducats, the Senate
" ſuſpected this man to be, what in reality he
" was, an infamous ſorcerer; and therefore,
" after two years impriſonment, baniſhed him
" out of their territories. The Portugueſe re-
" ſiding

" ſiding in Venice cloathed him, and forwarded
" him to Florence in the diſguiſe of a friar;
" but there the Duke, who was attached to the
" Spaniſh intereſt, cauſed him to be ſeized, and
" ſent in chains to Naples. When he was
" brought into the preſence of the Viceroy
" Count de Lemos, who, on account of the
" heat, was ſtanding without his hat, he haugh-
" tily bid him be covered. Being aſked by the
" Viceroy, What authority he had for giving
" him ſuch an order? he replied, That al-
" though the Count could not have forgotten
" the buſineſs which had carried him twice to
" Liſbon in the time of the late King Philip,
" he would refreſh his memory with ſome par-
" ticulars of the affair. The minute detail he
" gave came ſo near to truth, that the Viceroy
" was ſtruck with amazement; but, upon re-
" collecting himſelf, declined all farther con-
" ference, and ordered him to priſon. He re-
" mained there cloſely confined till the arrival
" of the next Viceroy, when he was brought to
" trial.

"trial. His low birth was proved upon him, "the fraud diſcovered, and the impoſtor con- "demned to the gallies. While on board, he "gained the love and reſpect of all his fellow- "ſlaves, and was conſtantly treated by them as "if he had really been the perſon he wiſhed to "paſs for. He was afterwards ſent to the fleet "of Sicily, and there examined by the Duke "of Medina Sidonia, who had viſited Liſbon "during the reign of Don Sebaſtian. The pri- "ſoner addreſſed the Duke as an inferior, and "aſked him what became of an African boy he "had given him twenty-two years ago? Medina "was confounded; and burſting into tears, re- "tired from the galley, very much undecided "what to think of the buſineſs. The court, at "laſt, thought it ſafeſt to rid themſelves of "him; and he was accordingly put to death "on the iſland Delle Femine, near Palermo, "after he had been ſtretched on the rack, "where he confeſſed that he had carried on "the cheat by the aſſiſtance of the Devil; and,

"in

" in fact, all thoſe marks, which had rendered " his lies ſo plauſible, diſappeared from his " body the moment he was dead." Giannone, who wrote under the patronage of an Auſtrian prince, affects to treat this affair as a fooliſh trick; but many authors give more credit to the ſlave's ſtory. Parrino's abſurd recourſe to magic and diabolical illuſion is rather an argument in favour of this unhappy man's pretenſions; for, if the court of Spain could have deviſed better means of refuting his claim, it would certainly have employed them.

It was ſo late before we reached the place fixed upon for our landing, that I preferred ſleeping in the boat to walking ſix miles up to Catanzaro, in the dark, without a certainty of finding lodgings. A few hours, next morning, ſufficed to examine every remarkable object in this capital of Nether Calabria.

Catanzaro was built in 963, by order of the Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, as a poſt of ſtrength againſt the Saracens. Its ſituation on

an eminence, in the paſs between the mountains and ſea, ſeems judiciouſly choſen for the purpoſe of repelling thoſe Infidels, who, from Africa or Sicily, were wont to make good their landing at Reggio. Increaſe of inhabitants and of ſize cauſed it to be deemed a proper reſidence for the officers who compoſe the provincial tribunal; and, in 1593, it arrived at the dignity of capital, formerly the right of Reggio. At preſent, Catanzaro contains twelve thouſand inhabitants, who live by the law, and the ſale of corn, ſilk, and oil; of the laſt they export annually about ten thouſand ſalme. The water of this place has an unpleaſant taſte, and a great deal of earthy ſediment: the wine is very rough. The college of the late Jeſuits is a handſome building, and poſſeſſes a good ſtatue of St. Ignatius, by Fonſeca; and a very fine picture, repreſenting St. Bruno diſtributing bread to the poor. The firſt feudal inveſtiture of Catanzaro, was from King Roger to his ſon-in-law Hugh de Molines, Earl of Moliſe. The next, from

the

the firſt Charles to Peter Ruffo, whoſe family was in poſſeſſion down to the Aragonian reigns, when their eſtates went to Centeglia, and by him were forfeited.—Chaiſes can go no farther ſouth than this ſtage; and indeed I do not comprehend how they can penetrate ſo far. From hence to Reggio, the generality of travellers are conveyed in litters, by a route which croſſes the country, and runs along the ſhore of the Mediterranean.

In the afternoon, I rode ten miles to Squillacce, through a level, well-cultivated country, abounding in corn, pulſe, maize, mulberries, and olives. The wages of a labourer are fifteen grana *per diem*; the ſoil, a fertile loam, full of broken ſhells. My guide led me, with an air of triumph, to admire what he called a Temple of the old Saints of Calabria. Upon inſpection, it proved to be an edifice of Norman or Angevine times, with ſquare towers at the corners.

SECTION XLIV.

SQUILLACCE is built on the verge of a rocky mountain, ſloping to the eaſt, about three miles from the ſea. I do not know why Virgil gives this city the epithet of *Navifragum*, "Breaker of Ships;" as there are no hidden or apparent dangers attending the approach of veſſels. It is impoſſible this exact poet could be ſo careleſs, as to confound the attributes of the capacious bay of Scyllacæum, with the narrow paſs of Scylla in the Faro of Meſſina. Perhaps thoſe who explain the epithet by a tradition, that the firſt habitations of the place were built with fragments of the ſhip of Ulyſſes, may have ſtumbled upon a method of clearing up the difficulty.

In forming the body of Grecian commonwealths on the Italian ſhores, Athens furniſhed emigrants

emigrants for Scyllacæum; but this ſettlement never made any figure in the confederacy *. Rome ſent a colony hither. In the year 982, the Emperor Otho the Second was defeated under its walls, by the forces of the Greeks; who, from this victory, conceived deluſive hopes of compelling Italy once more to reſume their yoke. Montfort obtained this lordſhip in fee from Charles of Anjou; but in the next reign it was given to the Marſans. This powerful houſe being overturned by the Aragoneſe, the fief was beſtowed upon that of Borgia, and is now veſted in the Marquis Gregori, who, from being a commiſſioner of the victualing-office at Meſſina, roſe to be Prime Miniſter of Naples, and afterwards of Spain. Though he knew how to ſecure the partiality of his ſovereign, he was not able to conciliate the affections of the nation. A revolt in Madrid drove him out of the Spaniſh territories;

* Num. Scyll.—ÆR. 1. Cap. Merc. Φ=Prora navis ΣΚΥΛΛΑΤΙΩΝ.

and he has ever ſince reſided at Venice, as Ambaſſador from the Court of Spain. The Neapolitans attribute many pernicious meaſures to his counſel, and deteſt him as the cauſe of their heavieſt griefs and oppreſſions. We muſt wait for his death, and the ſubſiding of party-anger (the *recentia odia* of Tacitus), before we decide upon his criminality.

Squillacce prides itſelf on having given birth to Caſſiodorus, a ſtateſman of great abilities; and, conſidering the times he lived in, a very reſpectable author; beloved and honoured by Theodoric, and other Gothic monarchs. After paſſing through many high offices in the ſtate, he fixed upon his native city for the retreat of his old age; and, in compliance with the then reigning faſhion, took the habit of a monk, and ſpent the laſt years of his life in a cloiſter. In his letters to Maximus, he has left us many tokens of his attachment to Squillacce; and enlarges, with feeling and triumph, on its beauties and advantages. I walked to the mouth

of

of the river Alleſi, where this patrician had made a reſervoir, or fiſhery, into which, by means of a canal, he introduced the ſea-water. But I could find no diſtinct traces of any ſuch work, which probably has been filled up by floods, or eaten away by the daſhing of the waves, during ſo long a period as one thouſand two hundred years.

In the evening, I was diſturbed by a violent noiſe; which, upon enquiry, I found was occaſioned by the Marquis's bailiff kicking furiouſly at the door of the neighbouring houſe. This is the uſual method of giving the laſt ſummons, without any farther hope of mercy, to a debtor or tenant that refuſes to pay, and ſhuts himſelf up in his houſe for ſafety. If the defaulter be a friend, and indulgence intended in the proſecution, the officer ſtrikes the door with his hand only. In any fray, if one of the combatants run away and lock himſelf up, and his adverſary beat for entrance with his feet, it is underſtood that he is incenſed beyond meaſure,

and means to give no quarter: even children, in their little broils, obſerve the ſame diſtinction. This explains Horace's meaning *, when he ſays, that Death beats with impartial foot the doors of palaces and of cottages: he thereby implies, that he is inexorably bent on exacting the debt of nature; and not, as ſome commentators ſuppoſe, that he makes uſe of the foot, merely becauſe his hands are employed in holding the ſcythe and hour-glaſs.

Other alluſions in that Poet may be elucidated by reference to cuſtoms ſtill in force throughout Calabria. His account of the hardy education and filial obedience of the Roman youth †, in former times, is ſtill exact with reſpect to the

* Pallida mors æquo pulſat pede pauperum tabernas
Regumque turres.——

† — Ruſticorum maſcula militum
Proles, Sabellis docta ligonibus
Verſare glebas, et ſeveræ
Matris ad arbitrium reciſos
Portare fuſtes.——

young

young Calabrian peaſant. After hoeing the ground all day, with no better fare than bread and water, ſeaſoned with a clove of garlick, an onion, or a few dried olives, he does not preſume to preſent himſelf before his mother, without a faggot of lentiſcus, or other wood, which he throws down at the door, ere he offers to paſs the threſhold. A wiſe adminiſtration, under an ambitious monarch, might train up this race to be once more the conquerors of nations. Patience under penury, hardſhip, and hunger, ſymmetry and ſtrength of limb, and an ardent fierce ſpirit, ſtill exiſt in the mountains of the kingdom; but it would require a very fortunate combination of circumſtances, with great judgment and reſolution, to bring theſe qualities properly into action.

Horace's animated deſcription of a mother longing for the return of her ſon *, may ſtill

* Ut mater juvenem, quem Notus invido
Flatu Carpathii trans maris æquora
Cunctantem ſpatio longiùs annuo
Dulci diſtinet a domo,
Votis omnibus hunc et precibus vocat,
Curvo nec faciem littore demovet.—

be

be applied to the Calabrian matrons. If the feluccas do not appear at the uſual term of their annual voyage, the mothers and wives of the ſailors offer up inceſſant vows and prayers, call upon the beloved perſon by name, and remain at their windows, with eyes fixed on the Cape which the bark is to double. The inſtant a boat is ſeen coming round the Point, the whole town reſounds with joyful cries of "Barca! Barca!" The boys ring the bells, and, as ſoon as they can diſtinguiſh what felucca it is, run to the relations, to claim beverage for the good news.

Dionyſius of Syracuſe, in hopes of diſuniting the confederates of Magna Græcia, attempted to build a wall or rampire acroſs the iſthmus; but troubles in Sicily called him away before he could complete the work.

We paſſed below Stellati, a town of one thouſand two hundred ſouls, on a hill compoſed of pebbles and mineral particles, glued together by a viſcous earth: it contains ſome fine ſpeci-

mens

mens of marcaſites. As we advanced ſouthward, the country fell off in beauty, and the ſoil in richneſs, from a mellow loam to a poor blue clay. The cotton-fields have not the wholeſome appearance of thoſe farther north. The landſcape, however, revives near the banks of the Calipari or Eloris, where Dionyſius defeated the allied Greeks. We ſlept at Monaſterace, a poor village on an eminence. The road to it was good, except near the torrents, which, in great numbers, roll down from the mountains, and tear the plain to pieces. The deſolate aſpect of the country may be aſcribed at leaſt as much to the ſcarcity of cultivators, as to the badneſs of the ſoil.

On the ſeventeenth, we came to Gerace, through a very unpleaſant tract of land along the coaſt. A bare, ugly ridge of hills cloſes in the plain on the weſt, and frequently comes quite down to the beach. We croſſed innumerable ſtreams, the banks of which were no doubt marked, in ancient times, by many a bloody encounter

encounter between Greeks and barbarians, or between the different Grecian ſtates, who were continually undermining their common fabrick by inteſtine diſſentions. It is now very difficult to aſcertain the preciſe poſition of ancient rivers and towns; but it might certainly be accompliſhed with more accuracy than has yet been done by any geographer whatever.

We left Stilo on our right, remarkable for a rich convent of Carthuſians; an Order which, in its very infancy, ſtruck a good root in this kingdom, by the favour of Roger, the great Earl of Sicily, a very particular friend of their founder St. Bruno. Theſe roots ſpread vigorouſly, and grew to an enormous ſize, as to riches and extent of poſſeſſions; but the ſpirit of the times threatens them with a ſpeedy lopping, if not a total eradication. Not far from this place is a mine of iron, now quite abandoned.

On our left was Cape di Stilo, a promontory which, with Cape Spartivento, forms the bay of

of Locri. Caſtelvetere, in a lofty ſituation, three miles from the ſea, occupies the ſite of Caulon, of which ſome veſtiges are ſaid to exiſt. I ſaw none that have any claim to ſuch remote antiquity.—Caulon was one of the earlieſt Greek ſettlements, as its coins evince, being incuſi; which was undoubtedly a mode of coining of very ancient date *. This city was demoliſhed, and its inhabitants removed to Sicily, by Dio-

* Nummi Caulonorum.

ARG. 1. Figura virilis nuda diadem. ſtans d. ſupra caput elatâ telum vibraturâ l. extensâ, cui ſuperſtat icuncula genuflexa; ſubtus cervus KAYAO.=Incuſſus.

2. Eadem figura, &c. ſine epig.=Cervus. laurus. ſup. dorſum AYAX.

3. Vir nud. fulmin. l. monilia ten. ⊕=Cervus KAYAONIATAN.

4. Vir fulm. cervulus KAY.=Cervus. vas. ⊕. KAYAONIAT.

5. Cervus. ramus [A] KAY.=Vir fulm. cervulus KAYAO.

6. Vir fulm. cervulus. KAYA.=Cervus. arbor AYAX.

nyſius,

nyſius, four hundred years before the Chriſtian æra. Nearer the ſea is La Roccella, a fief of the Caraffa family *, built on a rugged eminence overgrown with the Opuntia, or African fig. The natives eat the fruit, and plant out the ſlips as a fence to their gardens.

No

* This family came originally from the Caraccioli, and is equal to any in the realm in riches and conſideration. It is divided into two branches; one of which gives a ſteelyard for its badge; the other, a buſh of thorns. The laſt emblem was adopted in conſequence of a tournament held by Charles the Second, in the ſuburbs of Naples. The ſon of that Prince, who was King of Hungary, took great offence at the Caraffas, for giving a ſhield barry, argent and gules, which are the Hungarian coat of arms; and inſiſted upon their being excluded the liſts, unleſs they altered their bearing. To obviate all difficulties, the knights of this family cut ſome branches out of a hedge, and tied them acroſs their bucklers; a diſtinction which has been kept up by their deſcendants. Antonio Caraffa, ſurnamed Malizia, made himſelf very conſpicuous as a politician, in the reign of Joan the Second. In 1680, Gregory was elected Grand Maſter of Malta. But the Caraffa

that

No author has clearly determined the ſituation of the river Sagra, ſo renowned for the defeat of the Crotoniates by a handful of Locrians. Thoſe who take it to be the Alaro, ſeem to come neareſt the truth.

that made the greateſt noiſe in the world, was Pope Paul the Fourth; one of the moſt turbulent haughty prieſts that ever aſcended the chair of St. Peter ſince the days of Gregory the Seventh, that famous trampler on all pretenſions of kings, and liberties of people. Paul and his nephews were, during the courſe of a few years, the diſturbers of Europe, and continually employed in exciting ſovereigns and ſubjects to ſome bloody and fanatical act of violence. At his death, he was declared an enemy to Rome; and all his ſtatues and coats of arms were broken and thrown into the Tyber.

SECTION

SECTION XLV.

GERACE is poorly built, on a hill of coarſe granite rocks and ſtiff clay; the road to it is ſteep and difficult; the vale below is well cultivated, and yet does not produce corn enough to anſwer the demands of the Geracians, though their number amounts but to three thouſand. They make good wine, which has the valuable quality of recovering its flavour and ſpirit by proper keeping, long after it ſeems to have loſt both. This city is ſuppoſed, by moſt writers, to ſtand upon the identical ſite of Locri, the capital of the Epizephyrian Locrians. Some Antiquaries place the old town nearer the ſea at Pagliapoli, where many ſcattered ruins ſtill remain. The brick materials with which they were built pronounce them of a later period than the happy days of Magna Græcia. One large

large well-preſerved room diſtinguiſhes itſelf above the reſt; but no part has any inſcription, column, or ornament. I was at firſt inclined to think, that Locri had been ſituated in the plain, which afforded greater conveniencies for buſineſs, and that the citadel had been built on the hill of Gerace; but as Strabo ſays expreſſly, that the city ſtood on the brow of a hill called Eſopis, the buildings along the ſhore can only have been ſuburbs, magazines, and habitations for fiſhermen. In thoſe early days of navigation, every angle of a coaſt, projecting rock, iſland, or river's mouth, conſtituted a port; and therefore we muſt not be ſurpriſed, if we are often at a loſs to diſcover any traces of the ancient harbours we read of. Locri had, no doubt, ſome ſafe retreat for gallies and row-boats, though nothing now appears but an open road. Without a few remarkable monuments to guide us, it is not eaſy to diſcover the true poſition of any ancient town on this coaſt. The difficulty ariſes from a progreſſive change of

dwelling. Adventurers, on their firſt landing, provided for their ſecurity by ſeizing upon ſome elevated inacceſſible rock, where they could bid defiance to the natives, as well as to any ſtrangers that might venture to land on the coaſt. As ſoon as increaſe of numbers gave them ſufficient powers for an attempt to enrich themſelves by conqueſt or commerce, they deſcended from their mountainous faſtneſſes, and erected commodious cities in the fertile plains along the ſhore. The full tide of human proſperity laſts but a moment; and every ſtate, when once it has reached the higheſt point of glory and power, muſt, by the natural courſe of things, be hurried back with the ebb to its original obſcurity. This viciſſitude was experienced by the Grecian cities of Italy. Deprived of liberty by the Romans, they ſoon ſaw the number of their citizens dwindle away; and then they found, that a too extenſive circuit of walls in an open country expoſed them to continual inſults by ſea and land. Unwholeſome vapours, the

effects

effects of depopulation and neglected huſbandry, completed their ruin; and the feeble remnants of their inhabitants retired for health and ſafety to the tops of the neighbouring mountains, where they built towns that reſembled aeries of birds of prey, rather than manſions of the human race. As peace and ſecurity return, as agriculture and trade meet with encouragement, we behold the inhabitants forſake their uſeleſs caſtles, and venture once more into the plains.

A colony from Locris in Greece founded the commonwealth of Locri in Italy, to which Zaleucus gave a code of laws, eſteemed by all the Greeks a maſter-piece of legiſlation. He was the firſt that committed his inſtitutions to writing, and fixed certain bounds to penalties and puniſhments, which, in all laws promulgated before his time, were left to the diſcretion of the judges. Like all the followers of Pythagoras, he ſupported the ſimplicity of his decrees by unalterable inflexibility, of which he is ſaid to

have made his own family feel the effects, rather than derogate from the letter of the law. Jealous of innovation, he enacted, that whoever had a new law to propoſe, ſhould appear in the aſſembly of the people with a rope round his neck, to be ſtrangled immediately, if the propoſals were rejected. The Locrians entered into an alliance with the Sicilian tyrants, and received the younger Dionyſius into their city when he fled from Syracuſe. The villain repaid their hoſpitality with the blackeſt ingratitude. By artifice and force, he acquired an abſolute dominion over them, and exerciſed it in a brutal manner, by inſulting their wives and daughters, and plundering their property. Upon his departure for Sicily the Locrians vindicated their rights, and wreaked their vengeance on his wife and children. This commonwealth poſſeſſed an ample territory, and reſpectable force, in proportion to the reſt of the Greek ſtates; but after it was ſubdued by Rome, faded away like a plant wounded at the root,

root, oppreſſed and ruined by the cruelty and avarice of its governors *.

I cannot

* Nummi Locrenſium.

AUR. 1. Caput Jovis laur. ΛOKPΩN.=Aquila leporem diſc. ΛOKPΩN.

ARG. 1. Cap. Jov. laur.=Aquila lep. diſc. ΛOKPΩN.

2. Fulmen-caduceus ΛOKPΩN.=Aquila lep. diſc.

3. Cap. imb. diad. tæda.=Aquila fulm. inſ. ramus. Æ. ΛOKPΩN.

4. Cap. barb. laur. NE.=Figura ſtans ſtolata coron. impon. cap. figuræ urbis ſedent. ΛOKPΩN—PΩMA ΠIΣTIΣ.

5. Cap. Palladis gal. arcus ΛOKPΩN.=Pegaſus A.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Palladis gal.=Racemus ΛOKPΩN.

2. Caput mul. ſpica.=Pallas ſtans d. haſt. ſ. clypeum. cornuc. ſtella ΛOKPΩN.

3. Cap. Viril. laureat=Pallas ſtans d. haſt. ſ. cly. A. ΛOKPΩN.

4. Cap. Pall. gal. ΛEY.=Fig. mul. ſedens d. pat. ſ. ſceptium tripus ΛOKPΩN.

5. Cap. Pall. gal.=Pegaſus ΛOKPΩN.

6. Cap. Mul. diad=Aquila fulm. inſ. corona ΛOKPΩN

7. Cap. Jovis laur. ΔIOΣ.=Fulmen ΛOKPΩN.

I cannot learn at what preciſe time the preſent name was given to the city; but as its Biſhop is called Hieracenſis in the eighth century, I ſuppoſe it became common about that period. Geracé was always a place of ſtrength. In the courſe of a family quarrel among the Norman Princes, Guiſcard was betrayed and taken as he attempted to ſurpriſe it; and had the Geracians been ſuffered to follow their inclinations, would have loſt his life; but Roger, though his enemy, reſcued him out of their hands, and by this ſignal ſervice regained his brother's friendſhip.

This was one of the numerous baronies laviſhed by Charles of Anjou on the Montforts.

8. Cap. Pall. duo glob.=in coron. cornu. AO.
9. Cap. Cereris ſpic. coron. ſpica.=Pallas ſtans d. haſtam. ſ. clyp. cornuc. ſtella. AOKPΩN.
10. Capita Dioſcur. jugat.=Jupiter ſed. d. avem. ſ. baculum. cornuc. AOKPΩN.
11. Cap. Pall.=Fulmen AOKPΩN.
12. Cap. vir. laur.=Mars ſtans d. haſt. ſ. clyp. AOKPΩN.

Under

Under the Durazzian line, it was acquired by the Carraccioli, and is now held by the Grimaldi of Genoa, with the title of Prince.

In the evening I joined a crowd that was dragging a woman to church, in order to have the devil driven out of her by exorciſms. She was a middle-aged perſon, and ſeemed to be in very ſtrong convulſions, which every body preſent firmly believed to proceed from a demoniacal poſſeſſion. The prieſt refuſing to come, ſome of the aſſiſtants grew impatient, and pulled the woman about ſo very roughly, that Beelzebub thought proper to decamp. The patient roſe up, and though confuſed and panting for breath, very ſoon recovered her ſenſes, and ran away full ſpeed to her own houſe. From which circumſtances I inferred, there was more roguery in her caſe than real diſorder.

All convulſions of the kind are attributed to aſſaults of malignant ſpirits. Near fifteen hundred women, pretending to be tormented by theſe imps, go up annually to Soriano, to be

cured of the poſſeſſion by looking at a portrait of St. Dominick, ſent down as a preſent from the celeſtial gallery. By theſe pretexts, they obtain from their tyrannical ſpouſes leave to make this pleaſant pilgrimage, and a pair of holiday ſhoes, without which it would be highly diſreſpectful to preſent themſelves before the holy picture. A prieſt of that convent told me a ſtory of a female demoniac, who, after going through the uſual courſe of cure, was ſent to confeſs her ſins to him. As he was perfectly well acquainted with the common tricks, he ordered her to give him the true reaſon of her acting that farce; and threatened her, in caſe of obſtinacy, with a viſit from a real devil, who would torment her in good earneſt. The poor woman, terrified to death at the menace, frankly acknowledged, that having been married by her parents againſt her inclinations to a goat-herd, who ſtank intolerably of his goats and cheeſes, ſhe abhorred his approach, and feigned poſſeſſion to avoid cohabiting with him. Having

ing thus wormed the ſecret out of her, the prieſt, in hopes of alleviating her misfortune, ſent for her huſband, and as he knew it would be in vain to attempt to argue him out of a belief of the devil's being in his wife, he planned a different mode of attack, and informed the ſimple fellow, that he had diſcovered what particular kind of ſpirit it was; that this dæmon was remarkable for an outrageous antipathy to goatherds, and that no exorciſms could prevent him from plaguing them. The poor man, whoſe firſt profeſſion had been gardening, and whoſe ſucceſs in the other line of buſineſs had not been very great, readily conſented to return to his old way of labour, if that would keep Satan out of his houſe. The friar procured a garden for him, and a chapman for his flock, and ſoon had the happineſs of ſeeing the married couple well ſettled, and perfectly ſatisfied with each other.

We rode next day twelve miles, through a diſagreeable low country, which, from the poorneſs

neſs of its clayey ſoil, and the bad look of its corn, may be pronounced unfavourable to the purpoſes of agriculture. The next ſix miles were over hills of wretched aſpect, compoſed of hungry clay laid upon beds of round pebbles, minerals, ſand, and ſhells, cemented together. After a weary ride through execrable roads, we ſtopped at one of the worſt-looking villages I ever beheld. It is called Bianco, from the chalky hill it ſtands upon, and conſiſts of houſes built of ſtone and mud, covered with luted boughs. The appearance of every thing about it was ſo dreary, the looks of the villagers ſo ſquallid, and the evening ſo ſtormy, that I was glad to remain in my ſmoky crib, and comfort myſelf with ſome white-wine of a ſtrong body and flavour, though rather too great a degree of roughneſs. My quiet was diſturbed by the danger of my guide, whoſe hand was bitten by a viper, as he was climbing over an old wall. The ſymptoms were very quick and violent; but the landlord removed them by applying a red-

red-hot iron to the wound, and thoroughly ſcarifying round it. He ſaid the coldneſs of the weather had benumbed the ſerpent, and rendered the venom leſs virulent than it would have been in a hot day. He mentioned a relation of his, whoſe head had ſwelled to a prodigious ſize from his having ſucked the place where a viper had bit one of his children; but the ſwelling went off with fomentations.

SECTION XLVI.

May 19th. WE deſcended the mountain at the hazard of our lives, by a miry narrow road, buttreſſed up with poſts, over which are laid wooden bridges that quiver with the preſſure even of a foot traveller. As it had rained very hard all night, our leader prudently preferred a longer way by the ſands, to a ſhort cut through the mountains. We croſſed the iſthmus of Cape Bruzzano, where the Locrians

firſt landed, and remained four years before they moved northward. The low grounds are extremely rich in herbage, and produce ſpontaneouſly thick crops of ſainfoin, which are not turned to proper account; half the graſs is ſuffered to rot on the ground for want of cattle to conſume it. Oleander, and many other beautiful ſhrubs, line the banks of the torrents, near ſome of which I found roots of the Calamus Aromaticus, Acorus, or Sweet Flag, beſides many other rare plants; but in the hurry of a journey, which had not botany for its ſole object, their names have eſcaped my memory. I am confident a regular ſearch in theſe waſtes, would afford botanical obſervers a treaſure of curious and medicinal vegetables *. I dined at Brancaleone, a ſmall village; and afterward rode to examine Cape Spartivento, the moſt ſoutherly point of Italy. It is ſurrounded by

* Don Domenico Cirillo, an eminent phyſician of Naples, drew up a large catalogue of plants in his tour through Calabria, &c.

ſmall

ſmall iſlands, and numerous rocky ſhelves, on which the waves break with great fury as they are driven down the ſtreights. From this angle we ſtruck into the mountains; and after much fatigue reached the city of Bova, where a letter procured me a very polite reception from one of the Canons.

Bova is placed on the brow of a hill, and being out of the way of trade and thoroughfare can boaſt of neither wealth nor agriculture. Moſt of the inhabitants are of Greek origin and rite. I do not mean that they can trace their pedigree up to the old republicans of Magna Græcia, for all ſuch filiations have been cut off, and confounded in the darkneſs of many revolving ages. Theſe people are of a much later importation, having emigrated from Albania only a few centuries ago. I was deſirous of obtaining every poſſible information about them, and ſhall bring into one point of view all I have learned at different times concerning their hiſtory.

When we recollect, that a very large portion of

of the kingdom was once inhabited or governed by Greeks, and underſtand that the Grecian rite has been in force in many parts of it, and ſtill is ſo in ſome, we naturally incline to ſuppoſe a continued poſſeſſion, and the Greek Church eſtabliſhed here by preſcription; but the fallacy of our concluſions will appear upon reflecting, that, when Chriſtianity began in Italy, ſcarcely the ſmalleſt trace could be diſcovered of Grecian laws, cuſtoms, or language. Polybius, two hundred years before, ſpeaks of them as old or former eſtabliſhments. Cicero mentions them as being already obſolete; and we learn from Strabo, that except three cities which retained ſome faint idea of them, all the reſt of Magna Græcia was become completely Roman in tongue, habits, and juriſprudence. The inſcriptions found in the Neapolitan ſtate clearly prove it. If any veſtiges might be diſcerned during the reign of Auguſtus, they were certainly very ſoon after obliterated by the introduction of colonies, and a ſeries of domeſtic

ſtic wars. From theſe premiſes it follows, that when a Patriarch was eſtabliſhed at Conſtantinople, there exiſted no particular connexion between this country and Greece; but the Neapolitan provinces formed, with the reſt of Italy, part of the immediate juriſdiction of the Biſhop of Rome. They followed the Latin rite till the eighth century, when Leo Iſauricus compelled the ſubjects of his Italian dominions to renounce all obedience to the ſee of Rome, and join in communion with the Conſtantinopolitan Patriarch. The Norman conquerors, through zeal and policy, reſtored this province to the Pope's authority, thereby the better to annihilate all union with the Greek intereſt. In the fifteenth century, almoſt every trace of the Greeks was loſt, except ſome faint traditions and reſemblances of cuſtoms, when the following ſeries of events brought a new colony into Italy.

George Caſtriot, Prince of Epire or Albany, better known among us by the name of Scanderbeg,

derbeg, the bulwark of Chriſtendom againſt the Turks, received a conſiderable and timely ſuccour from Alphonſus the Firſt. In return, he ten years afterwards, in 1460, croſſed the Adriatic, defeated John of Anjou, and eſtabliſhed Ferdinand the Firſt on the Neapolitan throne. That grateful King preſented him with many large fiefs, and invited the Epirotes to ſettle in his dominions. The death of Scanderbeg removed every obſtacle to the Turkiſh conqueſts, and John his ſon fled to Naples for refuge. He was received with open arms, lands were aſſigned to his followers, and exemption from taxes granted them, with many other privileges, of which ſome ſhadow ſtill remains. Theſe ſtrangers fixed their abode in various provinces, but chiefly in Calabria, from a proſpect of ſuperior advantages, by being under the protection of Irene Caſtriota, married to San Severino, Prince of Biſignano. The Albaneſe continued to come over ſo late as the reign of Charles the Fifth, and their numbers increaſed very

very ſenſibly. At preſent, they amount to a hundred thouſand at leaſt, diſperſed in a hundred villages or towns; but many of theſe ſettlements are wretchedly poor, and much decayed: thoſe in the neighbourhood of Bova remarkably ſo. The villagers carry corn, cheeſe, and cattle to Reggio; but that being a poor mart, has but ſmall demands, and little circulation of money. Their common language is Albaneſe. The men can ſpeak Calabreſe; but the women, who neither buy nor ſell, underſtand no tongue but their own, which they pronounce with great ſweetneſs of accent. This Albanian dialect is quite different from the modern Greek and Sclavonian languages, though they are ſpoken by all the nations round Albania. It is worthy of remark, that this jargon, which has been known in Europe upwards of a thouſand years, ſhould be ſo little attended to, that it ſtill remains without an alphabet, and many of its ſounds are not to be accurately expreſſed either by Latin or Greek letters. From this ſingula-

rity we may infer, that it is a mixture of the dialects of those Tartarian hordes that over-ran Macedonia and Greece in the eighth century; to which medley the intercourse with Germans, Italians, and Crusaders, has added a variety of foreign terms. The roots of this language are unconnected with those of all other European ones; but it abounds with words borrowed from old and modern Greek, Latin, Sclavonian, Italian, French, German, and, what is very extraordinary and past accounting for, many English terms employed in their native signification, with some variation in the declension and pronunciation *.

* These words among others:

Aunt	Crab	Let	Rip
Boor	Door	Leg	Sea
Breeches	Dream	Lofty	Sheep
Breast	Feather	Lose	Stir
Cow	Grumble	Milk	Sight
Cool	Gape	Mushroom	Shame
Chimney	Hunt	Meal	Tickle
Chide	Hunger	Mud	Uncle
Cough	Knee	Open	Wood
Can	Leave	Run	You.

This Catalogue was given me y D. Pasquale Baffi, an Albanese.

The

The Greek rite is now obſerved in the province of Coſenza alone, the Miniſtry and Biſhops having, by degrees, perſuaded or compelled the other Albaneſe to conform to the Roman liturgy and diſcipline. The Latin Dioceſans found it, no doubt, inconvenient to be charged with the direction of a foreign nation, of whoſe cuſtoms, language, and ceremonies they did not chooſe to confeſs their ignorance. Moreover, a total want of inſtruction had plunged the Epirotic coloniſts into ſuch a ſtate of barbariſm, that at laſt there was not a prieſt to be found among them, who knew Greek enough to perform divine ſervice in that language. To remedy theſe diſorders, and preſerve his native worſhip, Monſignor Rodatà, Librarian of the Vatican, prevailed upon Clement the Twelfth to found a college at St. Benedetto Ullano, in Upper Calabria, for the education of the young Greeks, who wiſhed to dedicate themſelves to the ſervice of the church. He was himſelf conſecrated an Archbiſhop *in partibus*, and ſent

to lay the firſt ſtone of this Italo-Greco-Corſinian ſeminary. Diplomas, immunities, and privileges, were heaped upon the eſtabliſhment, the property and juriſdiction of many villages purchaſed for it, ſixteen thouſand crowns expended upon the buildings, and a thouſand ducats a year ſet apart for the proviſion of the Biſhop. He acts as preſident of the college; but in his epiſcopal powers is ſubordinate to the Latin Prelate of Biſignano, without whoſe licence he cannot confer orders on his ſtudents. There is, beſides, a pariſh-prieſt and a ſchoolmaſter. The reſt are boarders at twenty crowns a year. Two Dominican friars read lectures of moral philoſophy and ſcholaſtic divinity; but whenever they touch upon the five famous propoſitions in diſpute between the two churches, the zeal of their anceſtors breaks out in the ſcholars, who ſeldom hear them inforced without betraying ſome tokens of diſguſt. Rodatà died too ſoon for the good of his ſettlement;—

abuſes

abuſes crept in, and the temporal concerns of the houſe have, of late years, been egregiouſly miſmanaged.

Theſe Albaneſe are a quiet induſtrious people, and their women remarkable for regularity of conduct. In their dreſs they preſerve the coſtume of Illyricum, from whence their forefathers came. The moſt beautiful women are generally given in marriage to clergymen, and are exceedingly proud of their huſbands; for among them prieſthood is the higheſt nobility. When an eccleſiaſtic dies, his widow never enters into a ſecond engagement, becauſe none but a virgin can aſpire to the hand of a prieſt; and any other is beneath her acceptance.

SECTION XLVII.

FROM Bova I travelled thirty miles along the ſhore to Reggio. As ſoon as the morning miſts were diſpelled by the riſing ſun, I had a view of Sicily, where Ætna towered above all other mountains, with a ſlender line of ſmoke flying from its top in a horizontal direction, as far as the eye could reach. We breakfaſted at a farmer's houſe in a poor, but well-ſituated village, called Amendolia. Here we deſcended into the plain, and croſſed the river Alice, the ancient boundary of the Locrian ſtate. Immenſe quantities of anchovies frequent the mouth of this ſtream and the adjacent coaſt; it is therefore very likely, that either the fiſh derived its Latin name Halec * from the river, or

* The Italian name of both is Alice.

the

the river was called after the fiſh. At Pentedattolo, a pretty village, I found the ſtate of agriculture much better than what I had hitherto ſeen in this province. The ground is managed with more ſkill and neatneſs, and conſequently productive of greater crops. Its hemp is the beſt in Calabria. The hills that border upon theſe flats, conſiſt of chalk and clay, mixed with rocks, formed of ferruginous particles, talk, and ſmall pebbles. The farmers were buſy with their harveſt, but ſeemed to loſe much time from a ſcarcity of hands. Near Montebello, we paſſed over the laſt Point of the Apennines, at the Capo dell' Armi, where the mountainous ridge ſinks into the ſea, to riſe again on the Sicilian ſhore at Taormina, in an oblique line. The opinion which was generally held by the ancients, that Sicily was formerly part of Italy, torn from it by ſome violent concuſſion of the globe, has been rejected by Cluver and others, upon their not being able to trace any correſponding angles and con-

generous ſtrata on the different ſides of the ſtreights. Their ill ſucceſs in this ſearch aroſe from their miſtaking the direction of the mountains. They denied the original juncture, becauſe they found no traces of it between Capo dell' Armi and the heights behind Cape Peloro; but, upon a more accurate ſurvey, they would have diſcovered that the mountains of Taormina correſpond, in compoſition and ſhape, with the extremity of the Apennine, and that the high lands of Cape Vaticano point towards the eminences north of Meſſina.

The ſoil of this promontory is light, and the ſtone white, which is, no doubt, the origin of its Greek name, *Leucopetra*, white rock—The aſpect of the country is wild, and bare of trees, but covered with lentiſcus, the common fuel of the neighbourhood. The face of the rocks is divided by narrow ſtreaks of pebbles inclining to the horizon. The road is excellent for horſes; the proſpects enchanting. The traveller has under his eye the beautiful Faro of Meſſina,

and

and the fertile plains of Reggio, contraſted with a bold chain of mountains that ſtretches away to the north-eaſt. On deſcending to the weſt, we entered upon a ſcene utterly different from what I had been long accuſtomed to. Inſtead of hills and marſhy ſhores, with little population, or appearance of induſtry, I now came to a rich delicious garden, ſhaded by groves and avenues of poplars and mulberry-trees, divided by hedges of pomegranates, incloſing vineyards and orchards of orange, citron, and various other kinds of aromatic fruit. Vegetables of all ſorts abound under the ſhade of theſe perfumed plantations; but hemp is chiefly cultivated, as being the moſt lucrative, though its emanations are ſuppoſed to be pernicious. Copious ſtreams meander through theſe agreeable plains, and diſtribute life and vigour to every plant. On each ſide of the road are houſes erected for the accommodation of ſilk-worms, upon a particular plan of conſtruction. The windows are long, and not above ſix inches wide.

wide. This narrowneſs prevents too great a quantity of air being admitted at a time, which would overpower the tender inſects. When the eggs are on the point of being hatched, theſe holes are ſhut, and a moderate fire kept up in the rooms. The worms, as ſoon as they come out, are placed upon beds of reeds, and there fed with leaves of the mulberry-tree, which, in this diſtrict, is invariably of the red ſort. It is preferred to the white-fruited kind, as being a later ſhooter, and better adapted to the periods of the worm's life, which would be endangered from late changes of weather, if forced out of its ſhell at the time the white mulberry produces its leaves; beſides, it is the opinion of the ſilk-workers, that worms fed with the red mulberry, produce a more compact heavy ſilk, than thoſe that live upon the leaves of the white one. I am apt to think this a vulgar prejudice, unwarranted by experience, as the Chineſe, Piedmonteſe, and Languedocians prefer the white ſort. I was ſurpriſed to ſee the Calabreſe

Calabreſe bring up their ſilk-worms ſo tenderly; for I ſhould have thought their climate warm and conſtant enough to allow them to leave the worms upon the trees, as they are treated in the ſouthern parts of China; but I was told, that many experiments had been made, without ſucceſs, to diſcover a method of preſerving them in the open air. In order to provide food for them in caſe of a blight among the mulberry-trees, other leaves have been tried, and bramble-tops have been found the beſt ſuccedaneum. In the management of this produce, the Calabreſe are much inferior to the Tuſcans, who, though many degrees farther north, contrive to have two hatchings, or ſeaſons, in a year. Theſe ſilk-worm-houſes are the property of reputable families in Reggio, who furniſh rooms, leaves, eggs, and every neceſſary implement; take two-thirds of the profit, and leave the other for the attendants. A ſucceſſion of eggs is imported from Leghorn, and other places, to renew the breed, and by frequent changes keep up the quality

quality of the ſilk. Great care is requiſite to prevent lizards from entering theſe apartments. If they get in while the worms are employed in their functions or transformations, they will deſtroy great numbers, by running to and fro along the ſhelves.—The natural and powerful enemy of the lizard, is the large black ſnake, ſo common in Italy. The ſight of one of them will ſcare away all lizards, and therefore is very agreeable and ſerviceable to the ſilk-dealers, who accept it as a happy omen; and ſcream out, *Good luck! Good luck!* whenever they ſee one of theſe reptiles creep into their houſe. To ſecure a good ſilk year, they offer a part of the produce to the ſaint of the pariſh, who ſometimes gets a fifth ſhare from theſe zealots. Mariners, employed in exporting this commodity in barks, lay aſide a bale of ſilk for their particular patron; but if there fall any rain to ſpoil the cargo, the ſaint is ſuppoſed not to have fulfilled the reciprocal agreement, and accordingly loſes all claim to his portion.

All

All the pods muſt be carried to public caldrons at Reggio, and there pay a duty for boiling and winding off. As the winders work by the pound, they perform their taſk in a more ſlovenly, careleſs manner, than they would do were they paid by the day. After the ſilk is drawn off, forty-two grana and a half per pound are exacted, even though the owner ſhould keep it for his private uſe. Nothing can be more unfair than this tax, as the weight is ſet down while the merchandiſe is wet and heavy. The tyranny of exciſe is ſtill carried greater lengths; for the poor wretches are forced to pay one grana a pound for the refuſe and unprofitable pods, and two carlini a year for every mulberry-tree growing in their grounds. This odious, abſurd impoſition, was planned by the Marquis of Squillace, contrary to every wiſe principle of adminiſtration, and with many other vexations has checked this advantageous branch of commerce, diſcouraged the farmers, and cauſed hundreds of valuable trees to be cut

cut down to ſave the duty. In general, the profits of the ſilk-trade in this country centre in the Barons and Revenue-officers. The former by monopoly, and the latter by exactions, oblige the poor merchants to ſmuggle for a livelihood; and, to the great detriment of the royal receipt, the exciſemen find it their intereſt to connive at the practice.

SECTION XLVIII.

THE approach to Reggio is charming; for every cottage of the ſuburb is ſhaded with a beautiful arbour of vines, loaded with cluſters of grapes, that produce a very good ſort of wine.

Oranges, and their kindred-fruits, arrive at great perfection in theſe plains, which are ſaid to be the firſt ſpot in Italy where their culture

was

was attempted, and from which it was extended over the country. They are found to be much hardier than was at firſt ſuſpected, many large plantations thriving at the foot of the Apennines, twenty miles from the ſea, where in winter there is often froſt enough to congeal water. The Reggians carry on a lucrative traffick with the French and Genoeſe in eſſence of citron, orange, and bergamot. This ſpirit is extracted by paring off the rind of the fruit with a broad knife, preſſing the peel between wooden pincers againſt a ſpunge; and, as ſoon as the ſpunge is ſaturated, the volatile liquor is ſqueezed into a phial, and ſold at fifteen carlines an ounce. The *caput mortuum* is eaten by oxen, and the pulp ſerves to make ſyrup. There is a ſmall ſort of citrons ſet apart for the Jews of Leghorn, who come every year to buy them for three torneſi apiece. As they are deſtined for ſome religious ceremonies, the buyers take great care not to pollute them by a touch of the naked hand.

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The olives of Reggio are large and pulpy. They are much admired by thoſe who reliſh a high flavour; but to thoſe who have been accuſtomed only to eat the Provence ſort, they appear too ſtrong. The exportation of oil brings into Calabria-ultra half a million of ducats annually.

Before the Saracens were driven back to their original habitations on the Arabian and African ſands, the environs of this city were adorned with ſtately groves of palm-trees. Many of theſe trees were felled by the Chriſtians out of a whimſical hatred to the plant, as if it had been an appurtenance of Mahometiſm. The Infidels themſelves, on their retreat, deſtroyed all the male palms, except ſuch as grew within the walls. There are ſome trees ſtanding in the city which annually produce ſeveral pounds of dates; but moſt of them fall off before they ripen, and are eaten by the hogs. It has been remarked, that in ſeaſons wherein the Scirocco, or other ſoutherly winds, blow for a long continuance, the

the dates ripen better and ſooner than uſual. Perhaps the great quantity of warm moiſture and duſt ſcattered over them by thoſe winds, reſolves the natural refractorineſs of the fruit, by cauſing an uncommon heat and fermentation. A ſimilar precocity is obſerved in figs growing near a duſty road. It is ſuppoſed that the ſprinkling of lees of oil would haſten the maturation both of figs and dates.

Figs here have a fine flavour; thoſe of Felugaſo and Mammola are the beſt. The gardeners of this province do not follow the Levantine method of caprification, which is performed by carrying an inſect from the wild tree to the cultivated one, in order to procure impregnation by the duſt or pollen that ſticks to the feet and body of the fly, as the wild fig alone bears male flowers: nor do they ripen this fruit as the Neapolitan cultivators do, by touching the eye of it with a feather dipt in oil. The Calabrian figs come on very well without theſe helps, though the wild plant, abounding every

where, affords opportunity for caprification, if required. When the Calabreſe are deſirous of raiſing fig-trees from ſeed, a method leſs in uſe than ſlipping, they gather a quantity of wild figs, ſtring them upon pack-thread, and hang them over the cultivated ones on the tree, till both are half-dried by the ſun. In October they ſplit the garden fruit, and rub it very hard upon a rope. When the rope is covered with ſeeds, they bury it a few inches under ground; and in a ſhort time a plentiful crop of ſeedlings appears, which muſt be grafted, as they are all wild, or at leaſt of a mongrel breed.

The firſt Platanus ever ſeen in Italy was brought from Sicily by Dionyſius the tyrant, and planted in his garden at Reggio. The Muſa and Ananas grow very well out of doors here. The Prince of Scilla was, I believe, the firſt in this part of the world that cultivated the Pine-apple. He treated it in the beginning with great charineſs and precaution; but, upon trial, found a bolder management ſuit it better.

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The hills, that ſkirt the great chain of mountains, abound with cheſnut-trees, producing very large and ſweet fruit, which the inhabitants dry, grind, knead into a paſte, and uſe in lieu of bread.

Between Reggio and Scilla a ſilver mine was opened by the preſent King of Spain; but the vein lying in a granite rock that dips conſiderably towards the ſea, as if dragged down by the ſinking of the Straits, was not ſufficient to cover the expences, and therefore abandoned. I believe this bad ſucceſs may alſo be attributed to the unſkilfulneſs and lazineſs of the miners. Large quantities of ore were ſtolen, and at laſt all the works deſtroyed, by the negligence of the overſeers, who left the furnaces lighted when they went away. The buildings took fire, and were entirely conſumed; and the whole ſtock reduced, by the violence and continuance of the flames, to a ſtate of vitrification or calcination.

Reggio can boaſt of neither beautiful buildings nor ſtrong fortifications. Of its edifices the Gothic cathedral is the only ſtriking one; but it affords nothing curious in architecture. This citadel is far from formidable, according to the preſent ſyſtem of tactics: nor could the city walls make a long reſiſtance againſt any enemy but Barbary corſairs:—and even theſe they have not always been able to repel; for, in 1543, it was laid in aſhes by Barbaroſſa; Muſtapha ſacked it fifteen years after; and the deſolation was renewed in 1593, by another ſet of Turks. Its expoſed ſituation, on the very threſhold of Italy, and fronting Sicily, has, from the earlieſt period, rendered it liable to attacks and devaſtation. The Chalcidians ſeized upon it; or, according to the uſual Greek phraſe, founded it, and called the colony Rhegion, from a word that means a break or crack; alluſive of its poſition on the point where Sicily broke off from the continent. Anaxilas oppreſſed its liberties. Dionyſius the Elder took it, and put many of the

the principal citizens to death, in revenge for their having refuſed his alliance. The Campanian legion, ſent to protect the Rhegians, turned its ſword againſt them, maſſacred many inhabitants, and tyrannized over the remainder; till the Roman Senate thought proper to puniſh theſe traitors with exemplary ſeverity, though at the ſame time it entered into league with the revolted garriſon of Meſſina. This union, with a ſet of villains guilty of the ſame crime, proved that no love of juſtice, but political reaſons alone, drew down its vengeance on the Campanians *.

I en-

* Nummi Rheginorum.

ARG. 1. Facies leonis=Fig. vir. ſed. in cor. ONIƆƎЯ.
2. Fac. leo.=Cap. mul. laur. PHΓINΩN.
3. Fac. leo.=Cap. vitulinum. RECINON.
4. Fac. leo.=Flos PH.

ÆR. 1. Cap. mul. averſa modio coron.=Jupiter ſed. d. haſt. tripus PHΓINΩN.
2. Cap. Jovis laur.=Mulier ſtans d. patera ſerpentem paſcit. III. PHΓIN.

I enjoyed ſeveral delightful walks along the beach. Wherever a hole is made in the ſands, though

3. Cap. Dianæ.=Fig. vir. ſtan. in brach. avem. d. ramum. ſ. baculum. cornucop. PHΓINΩN.

4. Cap. Dia.=Leo gradiens PHΓINΩN.

5. Cap. Apoll. laur.=Tripus PHΓINΩN.

6. Cap. Apoll. & Dian. Jug.=Tripus PHΓINΩN.

7. Cap. Dian. P.=Tripus PHΓINΩN.

8. Cap. Dian.=Lyra PHΓINΩN.

9. Fac. leonis=Lyra. luna PHΓINΩN.

10. Fac. leon.=Tripus PHΓINΩN.

11. Cap. Pall. gal. gryps in gal.=Minerva ſtans d. Victoriam. ſ. haſt. & clyp. fulmen Π. PHΓINΩN.

12. Cap. imb.=Fig. vir. nuda ſed. d. ſagittam ſ. arcum. Π. PHΓINΩN.

13. Cap. Apoll. K. PHΓINΩN.=Leon. facies.

14. Cap. Apoll.=Vir. nud. ſtans d. ramum ſup. tripod. ſ. haſtam.

15. Cap. viril. Jugata=Vir ſtans avem d. arborem ſ. PHΓINΩN.

16. Cap. Jug. Dioſcura=Mercurius ſtans d. ramum. ſ. caduc. III. PHΓINΩN.

17. Cap. Jug. Dioſcur.=Vir nud. ſtans. d. avem & ramum. ſ. arborem. IIII. PHΓINΩN.

18. Cap.

though within a foot of the ſea, freſh water bubbles up. The views on every ſide are enchanting, equal to the charming ones of the Neapolitan gulf, and ſuperior to all others that I have ever ſeen. Meſſina riſes out of the waves like a grand amphitheatre; and the Faro, lined with villages and towns, ſeems a noble river, winding between two bold ſhores.

Sometimes, but rarely, it exhibits a very curious phænomenon, vulgarly called *La Fata Morgana* *. The philoſophical reader will find

18. Cap. vir. laur. idolum PHΓINΩN. = Cap. vir. laur. clava. PHΓINΩN.

19. Cap. Jug. Apoll. & Dianæ = Mul. ſtol. ſtans d. duas ſpicas ſ. bacul. luna. IIII. PHΓINΩN.

20. Fac. leon. = Corona RECI.

21. Fac. leon. = RECINON.

* The name is probably derived from an opinion, that the whole ſpectacle is produced by a Fairy or a Magician. The populace are delighted whenever the viſion appears, and run about the ſtreets, ſhouting for joy,—calling every body out to partake of the glorious ſight.

its cauſes and operations learnedly accounted for in Kircher, Minaſi, and other authors. I ſhall only give a deſcription of its appearance, from one that was an eye-witneſs. Father Angelucci is the firſt that mentions it with any degree of accuracy, in the following terms:

"On the fifteenth of Auguſt, 1643, as I "ſtood at my window, I was ſurpriſed with a "moſt wonderful, delectable viſion. The ſea "that waſhes the Sicilian ſhore ſwelled up, and "became, for ten miles in length, like a chain "of dark mountains; while the waters near "our Calabrian coaſt grew quite ſmooth, and "in an inſtant appeared as one clear poliſhed "mirror, reclining againſt the aforeſaid ridge. "On this glaſs was depicted, in *chiaro ſcuro*, a "ſtring of ſeveral thouſands of pilaſters, all "equal in altitude, diſtance, and degree of light "and ſhade. In a moment they loſt half their "height, and bent into arcades, like Roman "aqueducts. A long cornice was next formed "on the top, and above it roſe caſtles innu-

"merable,

"merable, all perfectly alike. Theſe ſoon ſplit "into towers, which were ſhortly after loſt in "colonnades, then windows, and at laſt ended "in pines, cypreſſes, and other trees, even and "ſimilar. This is the *Fata Morgana*, which, "for twenty-ſix years, I had thought a mere "fable."

To produce this pleaſing deception, many circumſtances muſt concur, which are not known to exiſt in any other ſituation. The ſpectator muſt ſtand with his back to the eaſt, in ſome elevated place behind the city, that he may command a view of the whole bay; beyond which the mountains of Meſſina riſe like a wall, and darken the back-ground of the picture. The winds muſt be huſhed; the ſurface quite ſmoothed; the tide at its height; and the waters preſſed up by currents to great elevation in the middle of the channel. All theſe events coinciding, as ſoon as the ſun ſurmounts the eaſtern hills behind Reggio, and riſes high enough to form an angle of forty-five degrees

on

on the water before the city,—every object exiſting or moving at Reggio will be repeated a thouſand fold upon this marine looking-glaſs; which, by its tremulous motion, is, as it were, cut into facets. Each image will paſs rapidly off in ſucceſſion, as the day advances, and the ſtream carries down the wave on which it appeared.

Thus the parts of this moving picture will vaniſh in the twinkling of an eye. Sometimes the air is at that moment ſo impregnated with vapours, and undiſturbed by winds, as to reflect objects in a kind of aërial ſcreen, riſing about thirty feet above the level of the ſea. In cloudy, heavy weather, they are drawn on the ſurface of the water, bordered with fine priſmatical colours.

JOUR-

JOURNEY

FROM

REGGIO TO NAPLES.

SECTION XLIX.

THE heat I had experienced in Calabria determined me to defer my voyage to Sicily till the enſuing winter. I therefore took my paſſage for Gallipoli in a French ſhip ready to ſail from the Straits; and on the twenty-ſecond, about ſun-ſet, we got under way. A heavy Scirocco, that roſe in the night off Cape Spartivento, rendered the paſſage unpleaſant; but

but carried us briſkly and ſafely to our deſtined port, where we arrived on the twenty-fifth.

Gallipoli ſtands on a rocky iſland, joined to the Continent by a bridge, near which flows a fountain of very pure water. From the remoteſt antiquity this was a ſtation ſo favourable to commerce, that every maritime power wiſhed to ſecure it; and it is certainly a reproach to Government, that nothing has been done to improve its natural advantages:—at preſent, it has neither harbour nor ſhelter for ſhipping. Charles the Second demoliſhed Gallipoli, for its adherence to Frederick of Aragon. The Venetians treated it with great cruelty in the fifteenth century; and, in 1481, it was pillaged by the Turks. To preſerve it from future calamities, Charles the Fifth repaired and ſtrengthened its fortifications; and, ſince that period, it has enjoyed the benefits of peace and trade, which have rendered it the moſt opulent and gayeſt town upon the coaſt. Its inhabitants do not exceed ſix thouſand in number; but they

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are eaſy in their circumſtances, lively, and merry, and in general well-informed. Conſumptions and ſpitting of blood are rather frequent here, occaſioned by the great ſubtilty of the air, which is ventilated from every quarter. The buildings are tolerable, and ſome of the churches have good paintings.

The cotton trade brings in about thirty thouſand ducats a-year. Good muſlins, cotton ſtockings, and other parts of apparel, are manufactured here, and purchaſed by the Provençals; for Gallipoli has no direct trade with the metropolis. Silk and ſaffron were formerly objects of traffick; but heavy duties and oppreſſion have cauſed them to be abandoned. The wine of this territory is good; but from dryneſs of climate, and ſhallowneſs of ſoil, the vintage frequently fails in quantity; and then the Gallipolitans have recourſe to Sicily for a ſupply. Oil is the great ſupport of this place:—two-thirds of the produce of its olive plantations are exported to France, and the North of Italy; the re-

remainder is ſent to Naples, and other ports of the kingdom. It appears by the books of the Cuſtom-houſe, that in 1766 *, eleven thouſand four hundred and fifty-nine ſalme were ſhipped off for national markets, and thirty-five thouſand four hundred and ninety-three ſalme for foreign ones. This quantity cannot be valued at leſs than a million of ducats; but the profits to the venders are much curtailed by a duty on exportation.

Neapolitan merchants, by means of agents ſettled at Gallipoli, buy up the oils, from year to year, long before an olive appears upon the tree. The price is afterwards ſettled by public authority; a mode of evaluation extremely fa-

* I fix upon 1766, as being the year mentioned in Reideſel's evaluation, which I have good authority for correcting. His accounts are, one thouſand three hundred and ninety-five laſts, or thirteen thouſand nine hundred and fifty ſalme, for home trade; and ſeventeen thouſand three hundred and twenty-three laſts, or one hundred ſeventy-three thouſand two hundred and thirty ſalme, for foreign countries.

vourable

vourable to the traders, and prejudicial to the land-owner, who is attached to the ſoil, and indeed ſeldom conſidered by Government. The Neapolitans ſell their oil to the merchants of Leghorn; and, if faithfully ſerved by their factors in Terra di Otranto, ought to double their capital in two years. But, to balance this advantage, they run great riſks, pay exorbitant intereſt, and have frequent bankruptcies to guard againſt.

About three miles due Weſt, is a ſmall iſland, level with the water, almoſt barren. Wherever the ſoil is deep enough, it produces ſhort graſs, renowned for giving a moſt exquiſite flavour to mutton. This rock is a very convenient ſtation for fiſhing, and is reſorted to by flocks of ſea-fowl.

On the twenty-ſeventh, I ſet out for Naples; making a little deviation from the direct road, to ſee Nardo and Otranto. Near Gallipoli, cultivation is in a flouriſhing ſtate; though the rocks are very ſhallowly covered with earth.

In

In this province, the rent of arable ground varies prodigiouſly; rather according to the degrees of population than thoſe of fertility. For example,—Brindiſi poſſeſſes a ſpacious territory, rich in ſoil and natural advantages, free from baronial tenures and burthens: yet the beſt of its land does not let at ten ſhillings an acre; while the rocky but well-peopled Salentine peninſula, hampered as it is with feudal claims and drawbacks, gives at leaſt double the rent.

The olive-tree is here attended to with the niceſt care, and no trouble ſpared to increaſe its fruitfulneſs, or revive prolific vigour in plants that begin to feel the decay of age. In winter, the peaſants bare the roots of the old trees, lay upon them a thin coat of litter, and leave them thus, during four months, to imbibe the reſtorative ſalts of the atmoſphere. Few of them have any principal bole; for all predominant ſhoots are early cut out, that every part may derive equal benefit from the influence of the ſun. Some huſbandmen only ſtir the earth near

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the tree; others plough all the interſtices, and raiſe profitable crops, though perhaps to the detriment of the olive-plants. In this province, the fruit is neither beaten off the tree, nor gathered; but remains till it falls through ripeneſs.

Don Giovanni Preſta has proved himſelf a zealous and valuable citizen of Gallipoli, by a long and attentive courſe of experiments upon the olive-tree, its fruit, and the method of making oil, with a view of increaſing its quantity, and improving its quality. The common mode of making oil, is to cruſh the olives to a paſte, with a perpendicular mill-ſtone running round a trough. This paſte is put into flat round baſkets, made of ruſhes, piled one upon another under the preſs. After a firſt preſſure, ſcalding water is poured into each baſket, its contents ſtirred up, and the operation repeated till no more oil can be ſkimmed off the ſurface of the tubs beneath. This method is liable to inconveniencies; for the oil is ſeldom

pure, keeps ill, and ſoon grows rancid. Don Giovanni employs other ways of extracting the liquor, which, though ſeemingly leſs effectual and more laborious, he thinks practice will prove to be full as expeditious as the mill, and much more advantageous to the vender, by the goodneſs of the oil. He recommends a proceſs, performed by pounding the fruit in a mortar. He throws a handful of the cruſhed ſubſtance into a long woollen bag, which he rubs very hard upon a ſloping board; he then wrings it; afterwards adds hot water, and continues to preſs, as long as a drop of oil can be drawn from it. This he ſuppoſes to have been the original mode of extraction, adopted by the diſcoverers of oil; and, if performed by a ſkilful, ſtout workman, to be much more effectual than the common one. He has examined the different ſpecies of olive-trees planted in his country, and appreciated their reſpective merits. The kind moſt commonly cultivated, and of oldeſt ſtanding in the province, is by him

called

called the Salentine Olive,—by the peaſant, Ogliarola,—from the quantity of juice yielded by its fruit. A ſecond ſort, vulgarly named Faule, of which only a few are planted, bears a ſmall olive kept for eating. The third is known by the names of Cellina, Scuraneſe, and Caſcia :—its olive give leſs oil than the Salentine kind, in a proportion of two to three; but the tree grows to a greater ſize, reſiſts weather better, and is alſo more fruitful,—for which reaſon it obtains the preference among the planters. He tried alſo a fourth ſpecies; but of which only one tree exiſts in his neighbourhood, and that a wild one. Contrary to the nature of all other olives, its fruit grows white as it ripens :—the ancients ſpeak of ſuch a kind. He has alſo procured ſcions of the beſt ſtocks from Tuſcany. I am ſorry to add, that as yet his efforts have been merely ſpeculative, for want of encouragement from thoſe who alone can promote the public good to any extent. In Puglia,

which abounds with cities and villages belonging to the Crown, and therefore more wealthy and independent than Baronial manors,—theſe trials may excite emulation, augment the cultivation of this valuable tree, and improve the manner of making oil, to the great emolument of king, planter, and merchant. I have little doubt but, with ſkill, the olives of this province may be made to give as fine oil as thoſe of either Provence or Lucca. In Calabria the caſe is more deſperate;—there feudal tyranny reigns paramount, and effectually clips the wings of induſtry:—there the cuſtom of the manor obliges all vaſſals to grind their olives at the lord's mills *, though their number is not equal to the buſineſs. The unfortunate wretches behold their fruit rot, and their oil evaporate from the fermenting heaps, while they muſt wait the

* They pay for every grinding, or Macina, two carlini. A Macina conſiſts of eight baſkets, of thirty Neapolitan rotoli each.

preſſing

preſſing of the olives belonging to the Baron and his leſſees, or to ſuch proprietors as can afford to bribe the millers.

At the diſtance of a few miles from the town, there is a good deal of woodland, where ſportſmen find very good diverſion. Gentlemen hunt hare, fox, and ſometimes wild boar, with hounds or lurchers, and ſometimes with both. In autumn, fowlers uſe nets, ſpringes, or birdlime; in winter, guns. All the country is free to whoever buys the King's licence, except ſome few incloſures, where the Barons endeavour to preſerve the game. Hawking has of late years been quite laid aſide.

SECTION L.

NARDO lies nine miles north of Gallipoli; the road to it good and pleaſant, with a fine view of the ſea. In this little city are eight thouſand inhabitants. The ſteeple of its cathedral is built in a very uncommon, but ſhewy ſtyle of Gothic architecture. Luca Giordano and Solimeni have adorned the church with ſome agreeable paintings. This place was part of the Balzo eſtate. The Aquavivas were the next poſſeſſors:—they are thought to have come from the Marca di Ancona. In 1401, in conſideration of their relationſhip to Pope Boniface the Ninth, Ladiſlaus erected their manor of Atri into a dukedom; an honour till then ſeldom granted to any but princes of the blood royal.

royal *. Claudius Aquaviva, a famous general of the Jeſuits, who died in 1615, was of this family.

The breadth of this peninſula, from Nardo, is about thirty-five miles; the road through an open country, interſperſed with ſome coppices of a ſmall jagged-leaved oak. We paſſed near many villages; but I ſaw nothing in any of them worth my attention. As we approached the Adriatic, the landſcape grew dreary, from the great quantity of looſe ſtone-walls, by which the fields are divided. Near Otranto, the gardens, being full of orange-trees, have a more pleaſing appearance. A rivulet, running into the

* Since that period, honours have been ſo laviſhly beſtowed, that, about the beginning of the laſt century, the ſingle kingdom of Naples reckoned fifty Princes, ſixty-three Dukes, one hundred and ſix Marquiſſes, and ſixty Earls; beſides Barons, who all held of the Crown *in capite*, and took their titles from the fiefs.—In 1703, the numbers were, one hundred and twenty-four Princes, two hundred Dukes, two hundred Marquiſſes, and forty-three Earls.

ſea, cloſe to the walls, ſtill retains its ancient name of Hydro.

Otranto is ſmall, ſtands on a hill, and contains only three thouſand inhabitants. Its little harbour is not ſo bad, but it might induce more people to ſettle here; as no port on the coaſt lies ſo convenient for traffick with Greece. The Adriatic Gulph is here but ſixty miles wide. I climbed to the top of a tower, to get a ſight of the Acroceraunian Mountains; but a vapour hanging over the ſea, along the horizon, hid them from my view: in a clear morning, their ſnowy tops are ſaid to be viſible. The cathedral of Otranto is Gothic, and, according to the Puglian faſhion, has its ſubterraneous ſanctuary. The columns are of beautiful marbles and granite; the pavement, a rude ſpecies of Moſaic, commonly called Saracenic *. As it is to be met with in all churches founded by

* The tomb of Edward the Firſt in Weſtminſter Abbey is a ſpecimen of this taſte.

the

the Norman Kings of Sicily, the artiſts who laid it were probably Saracens, or at leaſt Greeks, their ſcholars.—Theſe moſaics are compoſed of pieces of porphyry, ſerpentine, and cubes of gilt glaſs,—diſpoſed in ſtars, circles, or checquers. The compartments of the ſtalls are bordered with them; and the ſmall twiſted columns, which ſupport the pulpits and canopies, are ornamented with a ſpiral ſtripe of the ſame work. It is a pity ſo much durability, compactneſs, and beauty of materials, ſhould have been laviſhed on ſuch barbarous deſigns.—Otranto was a Roman colony, as is certified by an inſcription, almoſt the only monument of antiquity left there*. In the tenth century, it was made an archbiſhop's ſee. In 1480, Laurence de Medici, to deliver himſelf from the attacks of the King of Naples, perſuaded Mahomet the Second to invade the realm; and

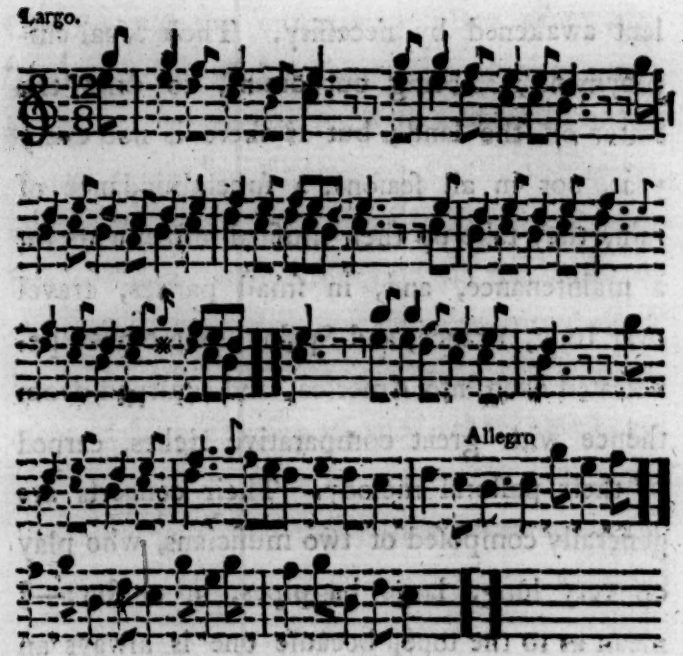
* Num. Hydr.—ÆR. Caput barb. & laureat. ΥΔΡΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.—Tridens, cum duobus delphinibus.

Otranto

Otranto was the unfortunate place where the Turks landed. It was inveſted, ſtormed, and pillaged. Its Prelate was ſlain at the door of his church; eight hundred principal citizens dragged out of the gates, and butchered; their bodies left twelve months unburied, till the Duke of Calabria retook the city, and committed them to hallowed earth. About a hundred years after, a devout perſon affirmed, that theſe bones had appeared to him in a dream; and, upon the ſtrength of his viſion, they became, for the vulgar, objects of almoſt equal veneration with the relics of the primitive martyrs.

I was entertained in the evening with the muſick of ſome of thoſe itinerant performers that play at Chriſtmas in the ſtreets of Rome and Naples. Their native country is Baſilicata, where the inhabitants of the Apennines learn from their infancy to wield the mattock with one hand, and the flagelet or bagpipe with the other. In theſe ſavages of Italy, muſick is not merely an art of paſtime or luxury, but a talent

lent awakened by neceſſity. Their uſual employment is hoeing out drains, to draw the water off the land; but as there is not every year, nor in all ſeaſons, a ſuperabundance of rain, they take up their muſical inſtruments for a maintenance, and, in ſmall parties, travel over Italy, France, and Spain. Some have penetrated even into America, and returned from thence with great comparative riches, earned by their paſtoral melody. Their concerts are generally compoſed of two muſicians, who play on very long, large bagpipes, in uniſon:—I mean as to the tone, becauſe one is always an octave higher than the other; while a third muſician ſounds a kind of hautboy, and, at the end of each ritornel, chants a rural ditty, to which the bagpipes play an accompaniment. The airs are all nearly alike, upon the model of the following Paſtorale or Siciliana.



The trifling differences depend upon a greater or leſſer vivacity in the performers, who are wont to embelliſh the common tune with variations, out of their own fancy. Every air, however, is compoſed of two characters: the ritornel is chearful; the vocal part, ſlow and mournful. The inſtruments are all made by the ſhepherds themſelves, in thoſe forms and ſizes which tradition has handed down to them, and experience has taught them to imitate.

My

My route to Lecce lay by the ſide of a large pond, that communicates with the ſea. All around, for many miles, reigns one entire waſte, productive of nothing but the holme oak, or *ilex coccifera*. Theſe buſhes were in full beauty, covered with the ſcarlet kermes, or falſe cochineal, which abounds in the ſame ſort of country, in Andaluſia and Languedoc. The Puglians ſeem ignorant that any uſe can be made of this ſhrub, except feeding their cattle with the leaves in winter, when other fodder fails. The villages on the road make a handſome ſhew, being built of white ſtone; but their churches are ornamented in a very barbarous ſtyle. The face of the country is too rocky, and too bare of trees, corn, and graſs, to be agreeable; and the prodigious number of ſtone walls would diſfigure a much more fruitful one. Near the end of our ride, which was about twenty-four miles, the landſcape became more lively, from a great quantity of gardens.

Lecce,

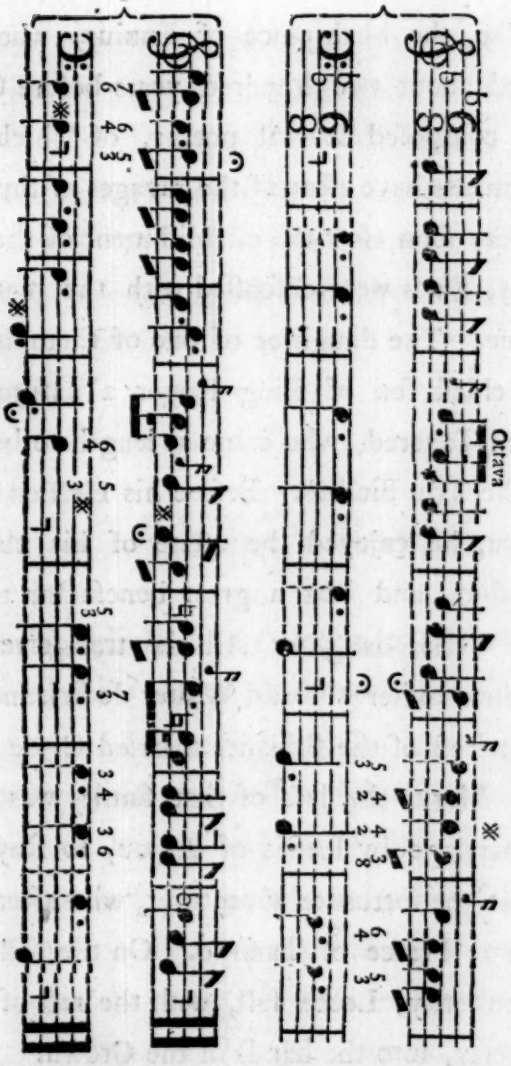
Lecce, the capital of Terra di Otranto, the ſeat of its tribunal, and the ſecond city in the kingdom,—is better paved and built than any town in the province. If its architects had been poſſeſſed of the ſmalleſt gleam of taſte, the buildings would have made a noble figure; for the ſtone of the country is of a fine white, ſo ſoft, when taken out of the quarry, that it may be moulded like wax, and will receive any form the ſlighteſt ſtrokes of the chiſſel impreſs it with; yet, by remaining expoſed to the air, very ſoon acquires a proper degree of conſiſtency. No materials, therefore, can be more deſirable for ornamental maſonry, or more ſuſceptible of regularity and nicety of juncture. But the fronts of the principal edifices are crimped into ſuch crowded uncouth decorations, that I lamented that the Grecian arts ever returned into this country: for the architecture of the Goths and Saracens, with all its oddities, is the very perfection of beauty and good ſenſe, when compared with theſe Corinthian and

Com-

Compoſite extravagances at Lecce. The cathedral was erected by Tancred, before he aſcended the throne; it is dedicated to Saints Cataldo and Nicholas, one of which is placed on a mutilated antique column in the great ſquare. This fragment was brought from Brindiſi, where its companion is ſtill ſtanding. Many of the paintings in the churches, and houſes of the nobility, are by Verrio, a native of Lecce, long employed in England,—where his ſtaircaſes and cielings are admired for their perſpective deception and variety of figures, though deficient in correctneſs, choice, and other requiſites of the art. He died in 1707.—The number of inhabitants does not reach thirteen thouſand, very inadequate to the extent of the city. It has the reputation of being, to the reſt of the kingdom, what Thebes was to Greece; and a native of Lecce is ſaid to be diſtinguiſhable from his fellow-ſubjects, by the heavineſs of his manner, and the dulneſs of his apprehenſion. I dare not be ſo raſh as to pro-

pronounce upon this point; having had, during my ſhort ſtay among them, very little opportunity of converſing with the Leccians, or appreciating their parts and learning. But I cannot ſuſpect a city to be the ſeat of ſtupidity, that has an academy of Belles Lettres, and where ſome of the Muſes at leaſt meet very ſincere and ſucceſsful admirers. Though the academy, from a want of royal protection, and proper directors, has of late confined its exertions to ſonnets, and other abſurd ebullitions of fancy; yet muſick is here cultivated with a degree of enthuſiaſm. Many of the nobility are good performers, and proud of exhibiting their ſkill on ſolemn feſtivals. The Leccian muſick has a very plaintive character, peculiar to itſelf. The Dilettanti ſing ſtanzas to the following tune, which is a ſpecimen of their ſtyle; and I have frequently heard Improviſatori chant their extempore verſes to it *.

* Don Luigi Serio of Naples is a very great genius in that line, and much ſuperior to the celebrated Corilla, ſo well known to all the Engliſh that have been at Florence.



At or near Lecce, was the Roman colony of Lupiæ. Some geographers confound it with

Rudiæ, the birth-place of Ennius, who flouriſhed about two hundred years before Chriſt, and compoſed ſeveral poems, of which only fragments have eſcaped the ravages of time.

Very ſoon after the eſtabliſhment of the Normans, Earls were enfeoffed with the manor of Lecce. The daughter of one of them bore to the eldeſt ſon of King Roger a natural ſon, called Tancred, who came at length to be King of the Two Sicilies. Before his election to the crown, he enjoyed the eſtate of his maternal anceſtors, and was a great benefactor to this city. His daughter Albiria transferred the earldom to her huſband Walter de Brienne, and the heireſs of the Briennes married C. de Engenio. Mary, the laſt of that family was given in marriage by Lewis of Anjou, to Raymond Orſino the fortunate adventurer, who afterwards became Prince of Taranto. On the failure of his poſterity, Lecce fell, with the reſt of their property, into the hands of the Crown.

From

From Lecce it is twenty-four miles to Brindiſi, through an ugly tract of land, thinly peopled and poorly cultivated. The untilled part is over-run with beautiful ſhrubs. As we advanced, the country rather improved upon us, but ſtill bore the marks of miſery and depopulation.

SECTION LI.

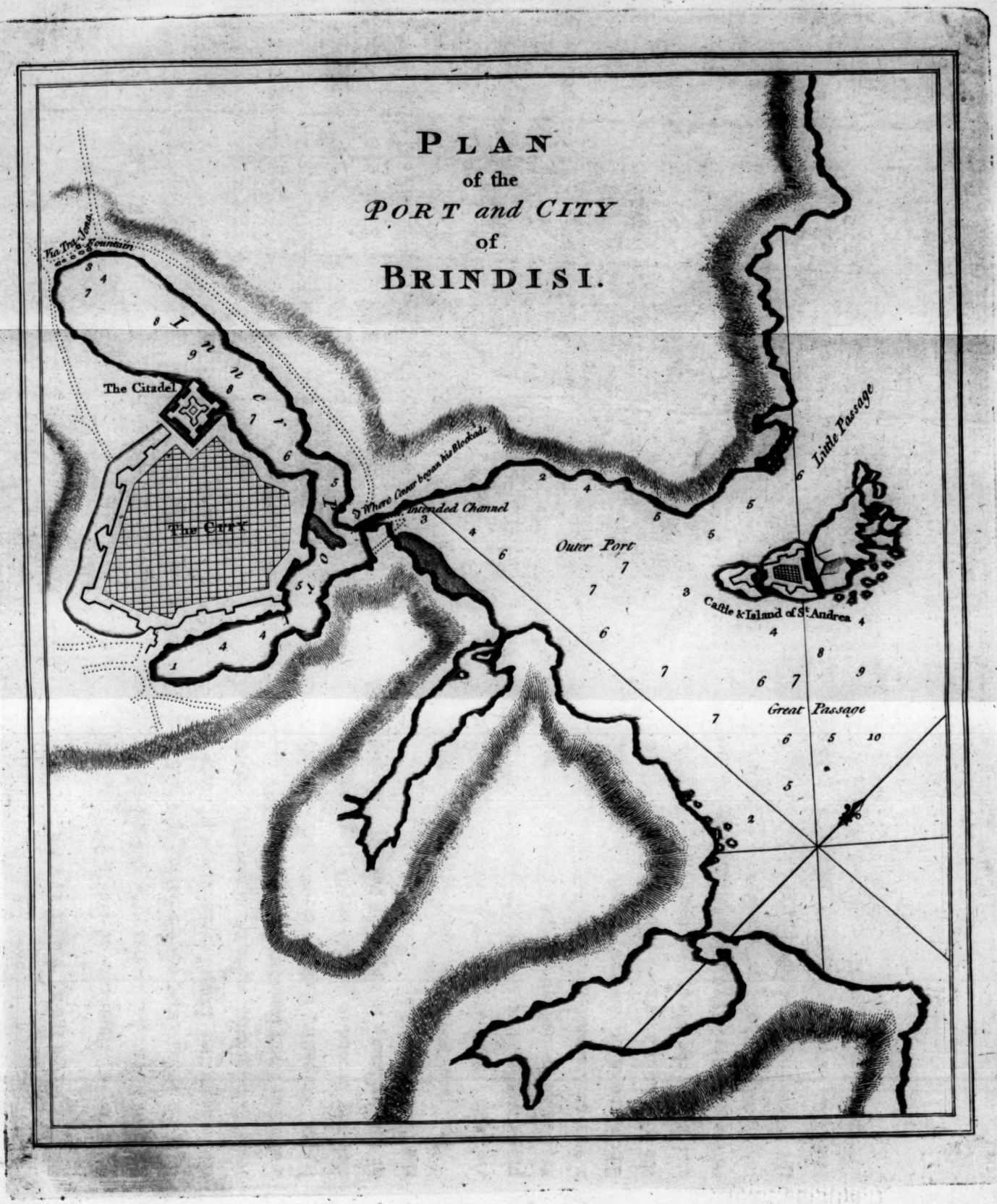
BRINDISI is a great city, if the extent of its walls be conſidered; but the inhabited houſes do not fill above half the incloſure. The ſtreets are crooked and rough, the buildings poor and ruinous; no very remarkable church or edifice. The cathedral, dedicated to St. Theodore, is a work of King Roger, but not equal in point of architecture to many churches founded by that monarch, who had a ſtrong paſſion for building. The canons of this

church retain the ancient cuſtom of having handmaids; but as they take care to chooſe them of canonical age and face, we may ſuppoſe theſe Focariæ to be only chaſte repreſentatives of the helpmates allowed to the clergy before Popes and Councils had reprobated them. Theſe women are exempted from taxes, and enjoy many privileges. When they die, they are buried gratis, and the funeral is attended by the Chapter with great ſolemnity; which is a mark of reſpect it does not pay to any relations of the canons.

Near the port ſtand the walls of a palace erected by Walter de Brienne, in a very bad taſte. Its materials are grey ſtone, divided at regular diſtances with broad courſes of black marble *. Little remains of ancient Brunduſium, except innumerable broken pillars, fixed at the corners of ſtreets to defend the houſes

* Theſe walls have been ſince pulled down, and employed in the facing of the new canal.

from


PLAN
of the
PORT and CITY
of
BRINDISI.
The Citadel
The City
Intended Channel
Outer Port
Little Passage
Great Passage
Castle & Island of St. Andrea

from carts; fragments of coarſe Moſaic, the floors of former habitations; the column of the light-houſe; a large marble baſon, into which the water runs from brazen heads of deer; ſome inſcriptions, ruins of aqueducts, coins, and other ſmall furniture of an antiquary's cabinet. Its caſtle, built by the Emperor Frederick the Second to protect the northern branch of the harbour, is large and ſtately. Charles the Fifth repaired it.

The port is double, and the fineſt in the Adriatic. The outer part is formed by two promontories, that ſtretch off gradually from each other as they advance into the ſea, leaving a very narrow channel at the baſe of the angle. The iſland of St. Andrew, on which Alphonſus the Firſt built a fortreſs, lies between the capes, and ſecures the whole road from the fury of the waves. In this triangular ſpace, large ſhips may ride at anchor. At the bottom of the bay the hills recede in a ſemicircular ſhape, to leave room for the inner haven, which, as it were,

claſps the city in its arms, or rather encircles it, in the figure of a ſtag's head and horns. This form is ſaid to have given riſe to the name of Brunduſium, which, in the old Meſſapian language, ſignified the head of a deer. I think it probable that this harbour was produced by an earthquake, which cauſed the ground to ſink, and the waters to run into the chaſm; for all the hills round it are on an exact level, and have parallel correſpondent ſtrata. Nothing can be more beautiful than this interior port, or better adapted to every purpoſe of trade and navigation. It is very deep, and extends in length two miles and a half, in breadth twelve hundred feet in the wideſt part. The hills and the town ſhelter it on every ſide. The north ridge is prettily cultivated and planted, but that to the ſouth is bare of wood, and all ſown with corn. In ancient days, the communication between the two havens was marked by lights placed upon columns of the Corinthian order, ſtanding on a riſing ground, in a direct line with the channel.

channel. Of theſe one remains entire upon its pedeſtal *. Its capital is adorned with figures of Syrens and Tritons, intermingled with the Acanthus leaf, and upon it is a circular vaſe, which formerly held the fire. A modern inſcription has been cut upon the plinth. Near it is another pedeſtal of ſimilar dimenſions, with one piece of the ſhaft lying on it. The reſt of the column was ſold to the people of Lecce after the earthquake of 1456, which threw it down, and deſtroyed great part of the city. The ſpace between theſe pillars anſwered to the entrance of the harbour. The whole kingdom of Naples cannot ſhew a more complete ſituation for trade than Brindiſi. Here goodneſs of ſoil, depth of water, ſafety of anchorage, and a centrical poſition, are all united; yet it has neither commerce, huſbandry, nor populouſneſs. From the obſtructions in the channel, which commu-

* It is of the ſort of green and white marble called Cipollino.

nicates with the two havens, ariſes the tribe of evils that afflict and deſolate this unhappy town. Julius Cæſar may be ſaid to have begun its ruin, by attempting to block up Pompey's fleet. He drove piles into the neck of land between the two ridges of hills; threw in earth, trees, and ruins of houſes; and had nearly accompliſhed the blockade, when Pompey ſailed out and eſcaped to Greece. In the fifteenth century, the Prince of Taranto ſunk ſome ſhips in the middle of the paſſage, to prevent the royaliſts from entering the port, and thereby provided a reſting-place for ſea-weeds and ſand, which ſoon accumulated, choked up the mouth, and rendered it impracticable for any veſſels whatſoever. In 1752, the evil was increaſed, ſo as to hinder even the waves from beating through; and all communication was cut off, except in violent eaſterly winds, or rainy ſeaſons, when an extraordinary quantity of freſh water raiſes the level. From that period the port became a fetid green lake, full of infection and noxious inſects; no fiſh but

eels

eels could live in it, nor any boat ply except canoes made of a ſingle tree. They can hold but one perſon, and overſet with the leaſt irregularity of motion. The low grounds at each end were overflowed and converted into marſhes, the vapours of which created every ſummer a real peſtilence, and, in the courſe of a very few years, ſwept off, or drove away, the largeſt portion of the inhabitants. From the number of eighteen thouſand, they were reduced in 1766 to that of five thouſand livid wretches, tormented with agues and malignant fevers. In 1775 above fifteen hundred perſons died during the autumn;—a woeful change of climate! Thirty years ago, the air of Brindiſi was eſteemed ſo wholeſome and balſamic, that the convents of Naples were wont to ſend their conſumptive friars to this city for the recovery of their health. This ſtate of miſery and deſtruction induced the remaining citizens to apply for relief to Don Carlo Demarco, one of the King's miniſters, and a native of Brindiſi. In conſequence of this appli-

application, Don Vito Caravelli was ordered to draw up plans, and fix upon the means of opening the port afreſh. Don Andrea Pigonata was laſt year ſent to execute his projects; and by the help of machines, and the labour of the galley-ſlaves, has ſucceeded in ſome meaſure. The channel has been partly cleared, and has now two fathom of water. It can admit large boats, a great ſtep towards the revival of trade; but what is of more immediate importance, it gives a free paſſage to the ſea, which now ruſhes in with impetuoſity, and runs out again at each tide; ſo that the water of the inner port is ſet in motion, and once more rendered wholeſome. The canal, or gut, is to be ſeven hundred yards long, and drawn in a ſtrait line from the column. At preſent, its parapets are defended by piles and faſcines; but if the original plan be purſued, ſtone piers will be erected on both ſides. Don Andrea, who received me with great politeneſs and hoſpitality, has the ſucceſs of this undertaking extremely at heart; and as he

he ſpares no pains, has money enough for his calls, and ſeems to be very well verſed in his profeſſion, it is to be hoped the patriotic wiſhes of his employers will not prove vain and deluſory. If the defence againſt the ſea be ſufficient, and a proper method be followed for turning off the load of ſand which every tide brings in, and naturally tends to depoſit where the current draws it, this work will remain an honour to the Miniſter by whoſe direction it was undertaken, and to the engineers who have ſuperintended it; but it appeared to me, upon examining every thing very attentively, rather doubtful whether the work be properly ſecured againſt accidents, and whether a very conſiderable annual expence will not be neceſſary to keep it in order *.

When

* "1789. This canal is now choaked up, ſo as to "have only ſeven feet in depth of water in many places, "and the peſtilential air is now as prevalent as ever it was. "Pigmati's plan having failed, another engineer is ap-"pointed,

When the canal ſhall be ſcooped out to a proper depth, and its piers ſolidly eſtabliſhed, veſſels of any burden may once more enter this land-locked port, which affords room for a whole navy. Docks wet and dry may be dug, goods may be ſhipped at the quay, and convenient watering-places be made with great eaſe. If merchants ſhould think it a place of riſing trade, and worthy of their notice, there is no want of ſpace in the town for any factory whatever. Circulation of caſh would give vigour to huſbandry, and proviſions would ſoon abound in this market. The ſands at the foot of the hills, which form the channel, are to be laid out in beds for muſcles and oyſters. Some eccleſiaſtics are raiſing nurſeries of orange and

" pointed, who means to widen the canal ſixty-ſeven feet, " and to make it twenty-one feet deep, but there is every " reaſon to fear that the propoſed remedy will prove ineffectual, and that this unfortunate city is doomed to " ſpeedy deſtruction."

Extract of a Letter from Sir W. Hamilton.

lemon-

lemon-trees; and other citizens intend introducing the cultivation of mulberry-trees, and breeding of ſilk-worms.

The Engineer would have done very little for the health of Brindiſi, had he only opened a paſſage, and given a free courſe to the waters; the marſhes at each extremity of the harbour would ſtill have infected the air; he therefore, at the expence of about a thouſand ducats, had the fens filled up with earth, and a dam raiſed to confine the waters, and prevent their flowing back upon the meadows. The people of Brindiſi, who are ſenſible of the bleſſings already derived from theſe operations, who feel a return of health, and ſee an opening for commerce and opulence, ſeem ready to acknowledge the obligation. They intend to erect a ſtatue to the King, with inſcriptions on the pedeſtal in honour of the Miniſter and Agents.

The workmen, in cleaning the channel, have found ſome medals and ſeals, and have drawn up many of the piles that were driven in by Cæſar.

Cæſar. They are ſmall oaks ſtripped of their bark, and ſtill as freſh as if they had been cut only a month, though buried above eighteen centuries ſeven feet under the ſand.

The ſoil about the town is light and good. It produces excellent cotton, with which the Brindiſians manufacture gloves and ſtockings.

SECTION LII.

IT is impoſſible to determine who were the founders of Brunduſium, or when it was firſt inhabited *. The Romans took early poſſeſſion

* Nummi Brunduſinorum.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Herculis imb. pel. leon. tect.=Homo nudus delp. inequ. d. delp. ſ. lyr. ten. ΒΡΕΝΔΗΣΙΝΩΝ.

2. Cap. barb. laur. 1 glob.=Homo nud. delp. ineq. b. lyram. 1 glob. ΒRΥΝ.

3. Cap.

ſeſſion of a harbour ſo convenient for their enterprizes againſt the nations dwelling beyond the Adriatic. In the five hundred and ninth year of Rome they ſent a colony hither. Pompey took refuge here; but finding his poſt untenable, made a precipitate retreat to Greece. In this city Octavianus firſt aſſumed the name of Cæſar, and here he concluded one of his ſhort-lived peaces with Antony. Brunduſium had been already celebrated for giving birth to the tragic poet Pacuvius, and about this time became remarkable for the death of Virgil. The Barbarians, who ravaged every corner of Italy, did not ſpare ſo rich a town; and in eight hundred and thirty-ſix, the Saracens gave a finiſhing blow to its fortunes. The Greek Emperors, ſenſible of the neceſſity of having ſuch a port as this in Italy, would have reſtored it to

3. Cap. barb. laur. pone vict. cor. imp. tridens 1 glob.=Homo nud. delp. ine. d. Victor. ſ. cornuc. clava, 1 glob. BRTN.

its

its ancient ſtrength and ſplendour, had the Normans allowed them time and leiſure. The Greeks ſtruggled manfully to keep their ground; but, after many varieties of ſucceſs, were finally driven out of Brindiſi by William the Firſt.

The phrenzy for expeditions to Paleſtine, though it drained other kingdoms of their wealth and ſubjects, contributed powerfully to the re-eſtabliſhment of this city, one of the ports where pilgrims and warriors took ſhipping. It alſo benefited by the reſidence of the Emperor Frederick, whoſe frequent armaments for the Holy Land required his preſence at this place of rendezvous. The loſs of Jeruſalem, the fall of the Grecian empire, and the ruin of all the Levant trade after the Turks had conquered the Eaſt, reduced Brindiſi to a ſtate of inactivity and deſolation, from which it has never been able to emerge.

As I was now in the country of the Tarantula, I was deſirous of inveſtigating minutely every particular relative to that inſect; but the

ſeaſon

ſeaſon was not far enough advanced, and no Tarantati * had begun to ſtir. I prevailed upon a woman, who had formerly been bitten, to act the part, and dance the Tarantata before me. A great many muſicians were ſummoned, and ſhe performed the dance, as all preſent aſſured me, to perfection. At firſt ſhe lolled ſtupidly on a chair, while the inſtruments were playing ſome dull muſick. They touched, at length, the chord ſuppoſed to vibrate to her heart, and up ſhe ſprang with a moſt hideous yell, ſtaggered about the room like a drunken perſon, holding a handkerchief in both hands, raiſing them alternately, and moving in very true time. As the muſick grew briſker, her motions quickened, and ſhe ſkipped about with great vigour and variety of ſteps, every now and then ſhrieking very loud. The ſcene was far from pleaſant; and, at my deſire, an end was put to it before the woman was tired. Wherever the Tarantati are

* Perſons bitten, or pretending to be bitten, by the Tarantula.

to dance, a place is prepared for them, hung round with bunches of grapes and ribbons. The patients are dreſſed in white, with red, green, or yellow ribbons, for thoſe are their favourite colours; on their ſhoulders they caſt a white ſcarf, let their hair fall looſe about their ears, and throw their heads as far back as they can bear it. They are exact copies of the ancient prieſteſſes of Bacchus. The orgies of that God, whoſe worſhip *, under various ſymbols, was more widely ſpread over the globe than that of any other divinity, were, no doubt, performed with energy and enthuſiaſm by the lively inhabitants of this warm climate. The introduction of Chriſtianity aboliſhed all public exhibitions of theſe heatheniſh rites, and the women durſt no longer act a frantic part in the character of Bacchantes. Unwilling to give up ſo darling an

* I ſhall ſay nothing more on the ſubject of this univerſal worſhip, as it is treated in a moſt ingenious and ſatisfactory manner by Mr. D'Ancarville, in his *Recherches ſur l'Art des Anciens.*

amuſe-

amuſement, they deviſed other pretences; and poſſeſſion by evil ſpirits may have furniſhed them with one. Accident may alſo have led them to a diſcovery of the Tarantula; and, upon the ſtrength of its poiſon, the Puglian dames ſtill enjoy their old dance, though time has effaced the memory of its ancient name and inſtitution: and this I take to be the origin of ſo ſtrange a practice. If at any time theſe dancers are really and involuntarily affected, I can ſuppoſe it to be nothing more than an attack upon their nerves, a ſpecies of St. Vitus's dance. I incline the more to the idea, as there are numberleſs churches and places throughout theſe provinces dedicated to that ſaint. Many ſenſible people of this town differ in opinion from Doctor Serao and other authors, who have ridiculed the pretended diſorder, and affirmed, that the venom of this ſpecies of ſpider can produce no effects but ſuch as are common to all others. The Brindiſians ſay, that the Tarantulas ſent to Naples for the experiment were

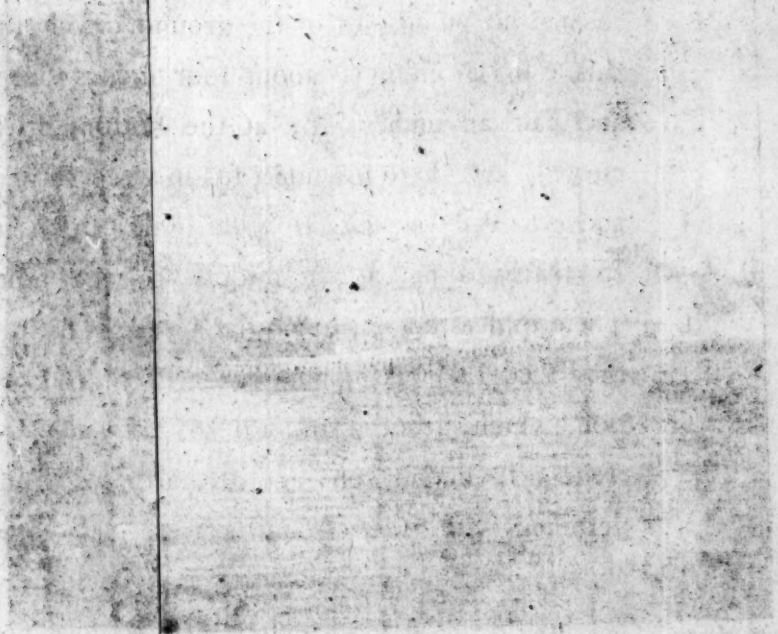
not of the true ſort, but a much larger and more innocent one; and that the length of the journey, and want of food, had weakened their power ſo much, as to ſuffer the Doctor, or others, to put their arm into the bag where they were kept, with impunity. They quote many examples of perſons bitten as they ſlept out in the fields during the hot months, who grew languid, ſtupid, deprived of all courage and elaſticity, till the ſound of ſome favourite tune rouſed them to dance, and throw off the poiſon. Theſe arguments of theirs had little weight with me, for they acknowledged that elderly perſons were more frequently infected than young ones, and that moſt of them were women, and thoſe unmarried. No perſon above the loweſt rank in life was ever ſeized with this malady, nor is there an inſtance of its cauſing death. The length of the dance, and the patient's powers of bearing ſuch exceſſive fatigue in the canicular ſeaſon, prove nothing; becauſe every day, at that time of the year, peaſants may

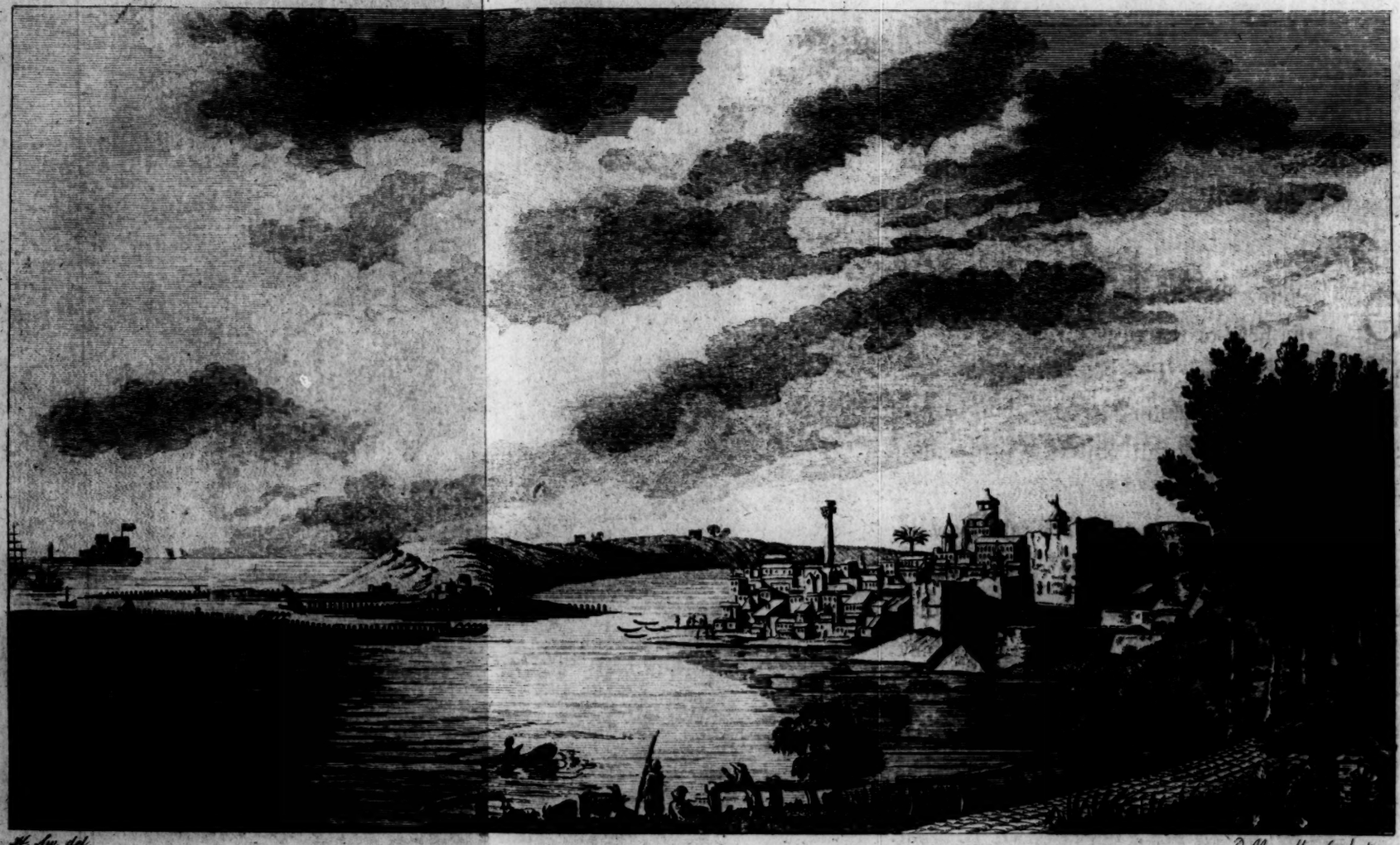
may be ſeen dancing with equal ſpirit and perſeverance, though they do not pretend to be ſeized with the Tarantiſm. The illneſs may therefore be attributed to hyſterics, exceſſive heat, ſtoppage of perſpiration, and other effects of ſleeping out of doors in a hot ſummer air, which is always extremely dangerous, if not mortal, in moſt parts of Italy. Violent exerciſe may have been found to be a certain cure for this diſorder, and continued by tradition, though the date and circumſtances of this diſcovery have been long buried in oblivion;—a natural paſſion for dancing, imitation, cuſtom of the country, and a deſire of raiſing contributions upon the ſpectators, are probably the real motives that inſpire the Tarantati. Before Serao's experiments, the Tarantula had been proved to be harmleſs, from trials made in 1663 by Clarizio, and in 1740 at Lucera, by other naturaliſts.

The Tarantula is a ſpider of the third ſpecies of Linnæus's fourth family, with eight eyes placed four, two and two; its colour com-

monly a very dark grey, but varies according to age and food. The bulk of its fore-part is almoſt double that of the hind part; the back of its neck raiſed high, and its legs ſhort and thick. It lives in bare fields, where the lands are fallow, but not very hard; and, from its antipathy to damp and ſhade, chooſes for its reſidence the riſing part of the ground facing the eaſt. Its dwelling is about four inches deep, and half an inch wide; at the bottom it is curved, and there the inſect ſits in wet weather, and cuts its way out, if water gains upon it. It weaves a net at the mouth of the hole. Theſe ſpiders do not live quite a year. In July they ſhed their ſkin, and proceed to propagation, which, from a mutual diſtruſt, as they frequently devour one another, is a work undertaken with great circumſpection. They lay about ſeven hundred and thirty eggs, which are hatched in the ſpring; but the parent does not live to ſee her progeny, having expired early in the winter. The Ichneumon fly is their moſt formidable enemy.

SEC-





H. Sw. del.

P. Mazell Sculp.

A VIEW of the CITY of BRINDISI the Anc.t BRUNDUSIUM taken from the NORTH WEST HEAD of the PORT.

1 The Adriatic. 2 The Castle. 33 The Entrance lately clear'd. 4 The Neck of Sand where Cæsar began his Blockade. 5 The old Entrance? 6 The Column of the Light House. 7 The Castle of Charles the V. 8 The old Roman Road.

SECTION LIII.

ON leaving Brindiſi, I paſſed by the well at the head of the haven, which ſupplies the town with water. The view from this point takes in the port, column, a large palm-tree, churches, and caſtles, all objects of great pictureſque beauty.

At a few miles diſtance, the Trajan way is eaſily traced as it croſſes a hollow. It is raiſed to a level upon arches, built in the reticular or loſengy manner. Moſt of this day's journey to Monopoli, although forty-three miles long, was near the coaſt, through a wild country covered with varieties of ever-green ſhrubs. The ſmall portion of ground in cultivation is ſown with beans; but there is a cruel enemy that every year deſtroys the beſt part of the crop:

this is the Orobanche or Broom Rape, a paraſite weed that ſhoots up with beans, and other leguminous plants, mixes its roots with theirs, and, by drawing out all the nutriment, cauſes them to droop, pine, and die. The Pugliese call it *La Sporchia*. All their efforts to eradicate it have hitherto proved ineffectual; but I ſuſpect they have gone very ſuperficially to work.

At Bari I took the inland road by the ancient Via Egnatiana, which Horace travelled upon. We ſlept at Bitonto *, a fine town of ſixteen thouſand inhabitants, much eaſier in their fortunes, and more poliſhed and improved in their manners, than thoſe that dwell in the cities along the coaſt; its markets are well ſupplied, and an air of affluence reigns in the place. The country between it and Bari, which is nine miles

* Nummi Butont.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Palladis = Ariſta BYTONTINΩN.

2. Noctua ram. inſ. = Fulmen BYTONTINΩN.

diſtant,

diſtant, is very much incloſed; and, though ſtony, fertile in corn, almonds, olives, wine, and fruit of all kinds. I found there was a general cry of famine throughout the country; but it was a want of ſnow, not of bread, that was complained of. Near this city an obeliſk was erected by the preſent King of Spain, with four fulſome inſcriptions in praiſe of himſelf, his father Philip, his ſoldiers, and the Count of Mortemar, who was honoured with the title of Duke of Bitonto for having defeated the Auſtrians on this ſpot in 1734. The engagement was a very trifling one; but as it cleared the kingdom of Germans, proved of eſſential ſervice to the Spaniards. If the King wiſhes to tranſmit this event to poſterity by a monument, he muſt build ſomething more durable, for the preſent one is already disjointed, and crumbling to ruin. A moſt diſagreeable ſtony road brought us to Ruvo, through a vine country. The pomegranate hedges in flower, and the holme oak loaded with kermes, enlivened the proſpect, which

which otherwiſe would have been very dull. Near Quarata, another monument is to be ſeen, commemorating a victory gained there in 1503 by thirteen Italians over an equal number of French. They fought in liſts upon a formal challenge, in conſequence of ſome contemptuous expreſſions made uſe of by the latter. Each of the vanquiſhed party was to forfeit one hundred ducats, his horſe, and armour. The conteſt was not very obſtinate; one of the French party was killed *; the reſt made priſoners, and led away to Barletta, becauſe they had not brought their ranſom with them. The Italian authors extol this action as a moſt glorious atchievement: the French accuſe their adverſaries of having diſplayed more trick and cunning, than valour, in the combat †.—I here quitted the Roman

* He was an Italian, called Claude d'Aſti.

† Full of zeal for the glory of his country Laborde treats this combat as a fiction, and wonders where Guicciardini met with this ſtory.

As

Roman way, and rode fifteen miles weſtward to Caſtel del Monte. The country I traverſed is open, uneven, and dry. The caſtle is a land-mark, and ſtands on the brow of a very high hill, the extremity of a ridge that branches out from the Apennine. The aſcent to it is near half a mile long, and very ſteep; the view from its terrace moſt extenſive. A vaſt reach of ſea and plain on one ſide, and mountains on the other; not a city in the province but is diſtinguiſhable; yet the barenneſs of the fore-ground

As Guicciardini was a contemporary (for he was ſent Ambaſſador to Spain in 1511), he no doubt muſt have met with numberleſs witneſſes of the fact. Gonſalvo de Cordova's army received the victors and priſoners into its ranks and conducted them in triumph to Barletta. Guicciardini gives the names of the thirteen Italians, of whom four were Neapolitans and two Sicilians. Many contemporary authors relate the event; a monument ſtill exiſts, raiſed at the time to commemorate the victory obtained in the fight of the French and Spaniſh armies, and therefore I cannot doubt the fact, though every French Hiſtory and Memoir may be ſilent.

takes

takes off a great deal of the beauty of the picture. The building is octangular, in a plain ſolid ſtyle; the walls are raiſed with reddiſh and white ſtones, ten feet ſix inches thick; the great gate is of marble, cut into very intricate ornaments, after the manner of the Arabians; on the baluſtrade of the ſteps lie two enormous lions of marble, their buſhy manes nicely, though barbarouſly, expreſſed; the court, which is in the centre of the edifice, contains an octangular marble baſon of a ſurpriſing diameter. To carry it to the ſummit of ſuch a hill muſt have coſt an infinite deal of labour. Two hundred ſteps lead up to the top of the caſtle, which conſiſts of two ſtories. In each of them are fifteen ſaloons of great dimenſions, caſed throughout with various and valuable marbles; the cielings are ſupported by triple cluſtered columns of a ſingle block of white marble, the capitals extremely ſimple. Various have been the opinions concerning the founder of this caſtle; but the beſt-

beſt-grounded aſcribe it to Frederick of Swabia *. I dined and ſpent the hot hours with great comfort under the porch, which commands a noble view of the Adriatic.

In the evening I deſcended the mountain, and rode nine miles to Andria, a large feudal city, eaſt of the Roman road. Andria ſtands on the edge of the incloſed country, and its environs being rather hilly, are far from unpleaſant, though without any running water. This town was built by Peter the Norman, and acquired its name from the antra or caverns in which the

* A Neapolitan gentleman found, in one of theſe rooms, a baſſo relievo repreſenting this Emperor and his Chancellor Peter de Vineis, of which he had a copy taken in plaiſter. This ſettles the matter beyond a doubt. I did not diſcover this ſculpture, nor hear of it, till long after my return to Naples; but I ſaw another baſſo relievo of ſome warriors in Norman habits meeting a woman dreſſed after the Greek faſhion.—As this ſtone appears to have been inſerted into the walls ſince their firſt building, and bears the date of 1520, it caſts no light on the hiſtory of the place.

firſt ſettlers abided. Conrad the Fourth was born at Andria, where his mother, the Empreſs Iole Queen of Jeruſalem died in childbed of him; and here alſo lies buried Iſabella of England, another wife of the Emperor Frederick. Beatrix, daughter to Charles the Second, had Andria for her portion on marrying Azzo D'Eſte Marquis of Ferara. This Prince dying, ſhe took for her ſecond huſband Bertrand Del Balzo, progenitor of the Dukes of Andria, who were long at the head of the Neapolitan Nobility. In 1370, Francis Del Balzo, by a quarrel with the powerful Houſe of Sanſeverino, and his obſtinate reſiſtance to the royal mandate, drew upon himſelf the vengeance of Queen Joan the Firſt, who confiſcated his eſtate. On the acceſſion of Charles the Third, he was reinſtated. This family failing, Fabricio Caraffa purchaſed the Duchy of Andria in 1525 for one hundred thouſand ducats.

From hence I travelled twelve miles to Canoſa, over a pleaſant down, where the Roman road

road remains entire in many places, paved with common rough pebbles. Canuſium, founded by Diomed, and afterwards a Roman colony, became one of the moſt conſiderable cities of this part of Italy for extent, population, and magnificence in building. The æra of Trajan ſeems to have been that of its greateſt ſplendour; but this pomp only ſerved to mark it as a capital object for the avarice and fury of the Barbarians. Genſeric, Totila, and Autharis, treated it with extreme cruelty. The deplorable ſtate to which this province was reduced in 590 is conciſely, but ſtrongly, painted by Gregory the Great in theſe terms: "On every ſide we hear "groans! on every ſide we behold crowds of "mourners, cities burnt, caſtles raſed to the "ground, countries laid waſte, provinces be-"come deſerts, ſome citizens led away captives, "and others inhumanly maſſacred." No town in Puglia ſuffered more than Canoſa from the outrages of the Saracens; the conteſts between the Greeks and Normans increaſed the meaſure

of

of its woes, which was filled by a conflagration that happened when it was ſtormed by Duke Robert. In 1090, it was aſſigned, by agreement, to Bohemund Prince of Antioch, who died here in 1111. Under the reign of Ferdinand the Third this eſtate belonged to the Grimaldis. On their forfeiture, the Affaititi acquired it, and ſtill retain the title of Marquis, though the Capeci are the proprietors of the fief.

The ancient city * ſtood in a plain between the hills and the river Ofanto, and covered a large tract of ground. Many brick monuments, though degraded and ſtripped of their marble caſing, ſtill atteſt its ancient grandeur. Among them may be traced the fragments of aqueducts, tombs, amphitheatre baths, military columns, and two triumphal arches, which, by their poſition, ſeem to have been two city gates.

* Nummi Canuſ.

ÆR. 1. Cap. Juv. imb.=Eques gal. haſtat. ΚΑΝΥΣΙΝΩ.

The

The preſent town ſtands above, on the foundations of the old citadel, and is a moſt pitiful remnant of ſo great a city, not containing above three hundred houſes. The church of St. Sabinus, built, as is ſaid, in the ſixth century, is now without the incloſure. It is aſtoniſhing, that any part of this ancient cathedral ſhould have withſtood ſo many calamities. Its altars and pavements are rich in marbles; and the ſix Verde Antico columns that ſupport its roof, are the largeſt and fineſt I ever ſaw of that ſpecies of marble. In a ſmall court adjoining, under an octagonal cupola, is the mauſoleum of Bohemund, adorned in a minute Gothic ſtyle. Round the cornice runs a ſtring of barbarous rhymes; and upon the door are other inſcriptions, with an emboſſed repreſentation of warriors kneeling before the Madonna. In 1461, the Prince of Taranto, among the many acts of barbarity practiſed by him in Canoſa, broke open this ſepulchre, and diſturbed the aſhes of a hero whoſe memory ſhould have been held

ſacred, at leaſt by a ſoldier: for Bohemund was a warrior of moſt exalted fame, the ſharer and the rival of his father Guiſcard's glory; who, by his victories, was enabled to ſhake the throne of the Eaſtern Emperors: when, by the intrigues of his mother-in-law Sigelgaita, and the partiality of his uncle Earl Roger, Bohemund found himſelf deprived of his Italian inheritance, he turned his arms againſt the Saracens, and formed a new ſovereignty for himſelf in Paleſtine. As Prince of Antioch, he became one of the firmeſt ramparts of the Cruſado againſt the Infidels.

The proweſs of theſe Norman conquerors was ſo much greater than that of their contemporaries, their bodily ſtrength and feats of arms were ſo wonderful, that it is probable they were the originals from whom the writers of romance drew their heroes. Giants cloven to the ſaddle; armies routed by a ſingle warrior; caſtles and bridges defended by one perſon alone; knights travelling

ling over the world in ſearch of kingdoms, princeſſes, and adventures; are no more than the real events of the lives of William Fierabras, Robert Guiſcard, Earl Roger, and their companions. Malaterra, their contemporary, friend, and hiſtorian, furniſhes ample materials for a complete romance, with the addition of a few enchanters and dragons. In the firſt Sicilian campaign, William ſlays a gigantic champion in ſingle combat. At Melfi, to ſhew the Greek herald what he could do, Hugh Tudextifem ſeizes his horſe, and kills it with a blow of his fiſt. In another affair, Fierabras ſprings from his bed, where he lay ſick of a fever, rallies his troops, kills the general of the enemies, obtains the victory, and returns to his couch. We read frequently of Robert's being obliged for food to ſally out of his caſtle by night to ſurpriſe and carry off the cattle in the neighbourhood; and once he called out the commander of a fort to parley, caught him by the mid-

dle, and rode off with him in ſight of his whole garriſon. I do not know which to admire moſt, the frankneſs of the prince who dictated his own ſtory; or the honeſt plainneſs of the hiſtorian who wrote, that Earl Roger was once ſo poor as to be obliged to ſteal horſes, and plunder travellers for a ſupport. At the ſiege of Reggio, Roger hews a mighty giant down with his two-handed ſword. In a ſally he makes from a caſtle in Sicily, where he and his wife were beſieged by the Saracens, his horſe is killed under him; but the hero cuts his way through their battalions; and, leſt he ſhould be thought to have left the field out of fear, marches off with the ſaddle upon his ſhoulders. In 1063, Serlo defeats an army of thirty thouſand men with only thirty-ſix knights armed cap-a-pee. What a fund of marvellous fictions would not ſuch facts give birth to! How many ſupernatural circumſtances might not a bard create out of the ſingle one of Roger's defeating the Mahometans at Miſilmeri, taking all their carrier-

carrier-pigeons, ſmearing them with the blood of the ſlain, and letting them fly to announce the diſaſter at Palermo, which he was marching to inveſt! The idea of theſe extraordinary men certainly remained long impreſſed on the minds of the Italians, whoſe lively imagination muſt have embelliſhed tradition with ſo many additional wonders, that the old romances had little more to do than to commit to writing, and dreſs up in rhyme, the common tales of every evening aſſembly. In theſe the eaſy brilliant genius of Arioſto revelled, and ſtruck out the moſt delightful, but moſt eccentrical deſcriptions ever ſeriouſly attempted by a poet.

SECTION LIV.

I LEFT the bridge of Canoſa early on the 7th, and travelled up the ſouth-ſide of the river for twelve miles, without meeting with any object worthy of remark. The city of Minervino, ſeated on an eminence, was the only place I ſaw during the ride;—the country bare and diſagreeable, till I entered the heart of the mountains, where I found a more woody and pleaſant landſcape. I dined at Lavello, a ſmall city belonging to Caracciolo Prince of Torella. Some Roman inſcriptions, and many Jewiſh epitaphs of the ninth century, are the amount of its antiquities. The æra of its foundation is unknown. Mention is made of it in the Lombard Chronicles, Sicard the eighteenth Duke of Beneventum having been aſſaſſinated at Lavello. Conrad the Fourth was encamped under its walls,

its walls, when he was ſeized with the diſorder that carried him off, poiſoned, as is ſaid, by his brother Manfred. Hiſtorians ſpeak of a ſtrange kind of poiſon adminiſtered on the occaſion, viz. powder of diamonds mixed with ſcammony, which being given in a clyſter, brought away the Emperor's bowels by piece-meal. This Prince was then in the zenith of his glory, having routed his enemies, puniſhed the rebels with ſeverity, and effectually cruſhed their power. Had he been allowed to live longer, the Houſe of Swabia would not have been ſo eaſily overturned; for though bloody and cruel to exceſs, Conrad was poſſeſſed of the bold manly qualities requiſite for fixing his dominion on a permanent baſis.

From Lavello I paſſed over rugged mountains to Venoſa, which ſtands on a high level of nine miles in circumference, ſurrounded by precipices, that form on every ſide a natural ditch and fortification. The whole maſs has been raiſed by the force of ſubterranean fires, as the

nature of the ſoil, and a forum vulcani, or ſolfatara, diſtant a mile from the city, clearly evince. This ſolfatara is not encircled by hills like that of Puzzuoli, which it reſembles in every other particular, of colour, ſulphureous productions, and internal rumblings. Numberleſs ſtreams flow out of its ſides; and, what is extraordinary, vary much in their colour and mineral qualities.

Venoſa was a very conſiderable place in ancient times, and a ſteady uſeful friend to Rome in her ſtruggles with Hannibal. The remnant of Terentius Varro's army fled hither from Cannæ, and obtained of the generous Venuſians both protection and ſupplies of all ſorts. When the Normans ſubdued Puglia, Dreux had Venoſa for his ſhare of the ſpoil. The San Severinos enjoyed it afterwards; then paſſing through the family of Balzo, the honour devolved upon a ſon of Raymund Prince of Taranto. A brother of Pope Martin the Fifth, was for a few years inveſted with this fief; but

on

on the Pontiff's demiſe, was deprived of his Neapolitan grants. Caracciolo, Prince of Torella, is the preſent proprietor.

Nothing is now to be ſeen at Venoſa that can recal an idea of its ancient magnificence, except pieces of marble containing parts of inſcriptions fixed in the walls of houſes and churches. The Gothic edifice belonging to the Maltheſe order, and dedicated to the Holy Trinity, affords the greateſt quantity of fragments, and even entire monuments, torn by the hands of its barbarous founders from ruinated theatres, baths, and temples. This church was erected upon the foundations of a temple conſecrated to Venus, from which goddeſs the city is ſuppoſed to have taken its name. The Benedictine monks were in poſſeſſion of this abbey till the reign of Boniface the Eighth, who endowed the Knights of Saint John with it. Its architecture offers nothing ſingular or beautiful in the Gothic line. Solidity appears to have been more ſtudied by the Norman architects who rebuilt or repaired it,

it, than elegance or lightneſs, which became the principal objects of thoſe builders that ſucceeded them. The remains of Dreux, Robert Guiſcard, and Albarade his wife, whom he divorced to marry a Lombard princeſs, repoſe under its roof. From the number of Hebraic monuments, which bear the ſame date with thoſe of Lavello, I infer that the Jews flocked to this country about the time that the Saracen power was predominant in Puglia. The piece of antiquity of higheſt reputation, and upon which the inhabitants of Venoſa plume themſelves moſt, is a marble buſt placed in the great ſquare on a column. This they ſhew as the effigy of their fellow-citizen Horace; but the badneſs of the deſign, and the mode of dreſs, render this opinion very problematical. I take it to be the head of a ſaint. The reſpect paid to ſo diſtinguiſhed a genius does honour to the taſte of the Venoſians; but I am aſtoniſhed they have not canonized their poet, for the

the vulgar at Naples have made a ſaint of Virgil.

I made an excurſion ſix miles along the Tarentine road to viſit the Bandufian fountain, celebrated by Horace in the thirteenth Ode of his Third Book, and ſo long a point in litigation among criticks and commentators. The common opinion placed it at his Sabine farm; but Abbé Chaupy has inconteſtibly proved, that it can be no other than a ſpring near Palazzo, in the principality of St. Gervaſio. I diſcovered it by the deſcription given by Chaupy; and was ſorry to find him ſo faithful a painter of the preſent deplorable ſtate of this once charming fountain. No ſhady groves now hang over its banks to ſhut out the burning mid-day ſun; its gelid waters no longer tumble down the rocks in beautiful caſcades, but, choaked with dirt, and loſt in bogs, are forced to ſeek their way under ground to a vent at the foot of the hill.

I re-

I returned to Venoſa, and paſſed the night at Barile, at the bottom of Mount Voltore, which I propoſed to aſcend the next day. Barile is a large burgh, ſituated on a hill, that appears to owe its exiſtence to an eruption, as the ſoil is entirely volcanical, and the ſtone, employed in buildings, a dark-coloured compact lava. A line of circumvallation of thirty miles marks the extent of this caſt-up ſoil. The incloſed ſpace is covered with every ſpecies of ſtone, earth, and mineral, uſually found on or near ignivomous mountains. Medicinal waters break out on all ſides, and are preſcribed by phyſicians in many caſes. The ſummit of Mount Voltore is like that of all volcanos, broken on one ſide, and hollow in the middle. In the crater are two lakes of great depth; one near a mile, the other almoſt two in circumference. The water is clear, ſweet, and cool, at leaſt near the ſurface; but I was aſſured that it is inſupportably ſtrong, both in taſte and ſmell, if drawn up from a conſiderable depth.

A change

A change of weather obliged me to leave the mountain in a hurry, and make the beſt of my way to Lavello *.

On the 10th, I paſſed the whole day in croſſing the plains of Puglia to the bridge of Bovino, almoſt ſuffocated with duſt, and parched up with heat. We dined at Ordona, near the ruins of Herdonia, a place of importance in the Punic war; at preſent ſome brick walls, veſtiges of baths, aqueducts, and gates, are all

* Had the weather been more favourable, I ſhould have ſtopped at Melfi, remarkable for being the firſt place that was ſeized by the Normans, and appointed a common rendezvous for all the chiefs of the league. Hither they brought their booty, and threw it into a joint ſtock. Hither they retired on any reverſe of fortune. In 1059, Nicholas the Second called a Council of one hundred prelates at Melfi, and confirmed the Normans to the poſſeſſion of their uſurped dominions. Upon this confirmation Canoniſts reſt all the rights to the Crown of the two Sicilies. Frederick of Swabia held a Parliament here for the purpoſe of promulgating the conſtitutions compiled by his Chancellor Peter de Vineis.

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that remain. About a mile off is a farm of the late Jeſuits, called L'Orta, a ſtupendous pile of buildings. From Ariano, we turned off to Benevento, where we arrived through an unremitting deluge of rain, with inceſſant claps of thunder and flaſhes of lightning. Every gutter became a brook, and every brook a river; ſo that we were obliged to make great haſte to get there, before they ſhould ſwell to ſuch a height as to ſtop our paſſage.

SECTION LV.

BENEVENTO is ſituated on the ſlope, and at the point of a hill between two narrow vallies, in one of which runs the river Sabato, in the other the Calore; below the city they unite into one ſtream.

We

We entered through the arch of Trajan, now called the Porta Aurea, which appears to great diſadvantage from the walls and houſes that hem it in on both ſides; however, it is in tolerable preſervation, and one of the moſt magnificent remains of Roman grandeur to be met with out of Rome. The architecture and ſculpture are both ſingularly beautiful. This elegant monument was erected in the year of Chriſt 114, about the commencement of the Parthian war, and after the ſubmiſſion of Decebalus had entitled Trajan to the ſurname of Dacicus. The order is Compoſite; the materials, white marble; the height, ſixty palms; length, thirty-ſeven and a half; and depth, twenty-four. It conſiſts of a ſingle arch, the ſpan of which is twenty palms, the height thirty-five. On each ſide of it, two fluted columns, upon a joint pedeſtal, ſupport an entablement and an Attic. The intercolumniations and frize are covered with baſſo-relievos, repreſenting the battles and triumph of the Dacian war. In the Attic is the inſcrip-

inſcription. As the ſixth year of Trajan's conſulate, marked on this arch, is alſo to be ſeen on all the milliary columns he erected along his new road to Brundufium, it is probable that the arch was built to commemorate ſo beneficial an undertaking.

Except the old Metropolis of the World, no city in Italy can boaſt of ſo many remains of ancient ſculpture, as are to be found in Benevento. Scarcely a wall is built of any thing but altars, tombs, columns, and remains of entablatures. The moſt conſiderable are in the upper town, which I take to be the ſite of the old one. The cupola of St. Sophia reſts upon a circular colonnade of antique marble, in the ſame manner as thoſe of Santa Maria near Nocera, Saint Sebaſtian, and St. Agnes at Rome,—and other buildings erected under Conſtantine and his family, when the arts were declining. In the court is a fine relievo of the Rape of the Sabines: the other remarkable fragments are, the Death of Meleager,—a Meaſurer of Corn,—

ſome

ſome ſepulchral buſts, a large boar, covered with the ſtole and vitta for ſacrifice, which antiquaries call the Caledonian Boar, left by Diomed as a badge to his colony of Benevento,—and, Hercules ſtealing the Heſperian Apples. This laſt piece ſtruck me very much, from the reſemblance it bears to our common mode of depicting the Fall of Man. A woman lies at the foot of a tree, and a huge ſerpent is twined round the trunk, ſtretching out its head towards the fruit, which a man leans forward to pluck. The club he holds in his hand, and a Greek inſcription *, mark him out for Hercules †. A volume might be filled with inſcriptions collected here, relative to every ſub-

* ΗΡΑΚΛΗ ϹΩΤΗΡΙ Π ΙΟΥΝΙΟϹ ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟϹ ΑΥΓΟΥϹ ΑΝΕΘΗΚΕΝ.

† Some ingenious writers have endeavoured to prove, that the fable of the Heſperides is built upon the ſcriptural account of our Firſt Parents: and this *Ex Voto* to Hercules, ſhews that there are good grounds for the compariſon.

ject, on which the ancients, who recorded every trifle, were wont to ſet up a lapidary memorial. The chriſtians have alſo contributed a conſiderable variety of monuments. I remarked one, in particular, repreſenting a man riſing out of the waters, and purſued by a fiſh: this alludes to the ſtory of Jonas, and was ſometimes carved upon the tombs of the primitive Chriſtians, to expreſs myſteriouſly their belief in the reſurrection.

The cathedral is a clumſy edifice, in a ſtyle of Gothic, or rather Lombard, architecture. This church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, was built in the ſixth century, enlarged in the eleventh, and altered conſiderably in the thirteenth, when Archbiſhop Roger adorned it with a new front. To obtain a ſufficient quantity of marble for this purpoſe, he ſpared neither ſarcophagus, altar, nor inſcription; but fixed them promiſcuouſly and irregularly in the walls of his barbarous ſtructure. Three doors (a type of the Trinity, according to the rules eſtabliſhed by the

the myſtical Vitruvii of thoſe ages) open into this facade. That in the centre is of bronze, embоſſed with the life of Chriſt, and the effigies of the Beneventine Metropolitan, with all his ſuffragan Biſhops. The inſide offers nothing to the curious obſerver but columns, altars, and other decorations, executed in the moſt inelegant ſtyle that any of the church-building barbarians ever adopted. In the court ſtands a ſmall Egyptian obeliſk, of red granite, crowded with hieroglyphics. In the adjoining ſquare, are a fountain, and a very indifferent ſtatue of Benedict the Thirteenth, long archbiſhop of Benevento.

The writers of the Beneventine hiſtory unanimouſly claim Diomed, the Etolian chief, for the founder of their city; and conſequently fix its origin in the years that immediately ſucceeded the Trojan war. Other authors aſſign it to the Samnites, who made it one of their principal towns, where they frequently took refuge, when worſted by the Romans. In their

time, its name was Maleventum, a word of uncertain etymology: however, it ſounded ſo ill in the Latin tongue, that the ſuperſtitious Romans, after atchieving the conqueſt of Samnium, changed it into Beneventum, in order to introduce their colony under fortunate auſpices. Near this place, in the four hundred and ſeventy-ninth year of Rome, Pyrrhus was defeated by Curius Dentatus. In the war againſt Hannibal, Beneventum ſignalized its attachment to Rome, by liberal tenders of ſuccour, and real ſervices. Its reception of Gracchus, after his defeat of Hanno, is extolled by Livy; and, from the gratitude of the Senate, many ſolid advantages accrued to the Beneventines. As they long partook, in a diſtinguiſhed manner, of the glories and proſperity of the Roman empire,—they alſo ſeverely felt the effects of its decline, and ſhared, in a large proportion, the horrors of devaſtation that attended the irruption of the northern nations.

The

The modern hiſtory of this city will appear intereſting to thoſe readers, who do not deſpiſe the events of ages, which we uſually and juſtly call dark and barbarous. They certainly are of importance to all the preſent ſtates of Europe; for at that period originated the political exiſtence of moſt of them. Had no northern ſavages deſcended from their ſnowy mountains, to overturn the Roman coloſſus, and break aſunder the fetters of mankind, few of thoſe powers, which now make ſo formidable a figure, would ever have been ſo much as herd of. The avengers of the general wrongs were, no doubt, the deſtroyers of arts and literature, and brought on the thick clouds of ignorance, which, for many centuries, no gleam of light could penetrate; but it is to be remembered, alſo, that the Romans themſelves had already made great progreſs in baniſhing true taſte and knowledge, and would very ſoon have been a barbarous nation, though neither Goths nor Vandals had ever approached the frontier.

The Lombards came the laſt of the Scythian or Scandinavian hordes, to invade Italy. After fixing the ſeat of their empire at Pavia, they ſent a detachment to poſſeſs itſelf of the ſouthern provinces. In 571, Zotto was appointed Duke of Benevento, as a feudatory of the King of Lombardy; and ſeems to have confined his rule to the city alone, from which he ſallied forth to ſeek for booty. The ſecond Duke, whoſe name was Arechis, conquered almoſt the whole country that now conſtitutes the kingdom of Naples. His ſucceſſors appear long to have remained ſatisfied with the extent of dominion he had tranſmitted to them. Grimwald, one of them, uſurped the crown of Lombardy; but his ſon Romwald, though a very ſucceſsful warrior, contented himſelf with the ducal title. The fall of Deſiderius, laſt King of the Lombards, did not affect the ſtate of Benevento. By an effort of policy or reſolution, Arechis the Second kept poſſeſſion; and availing himſelf of the favourable conjuncture, aſſerted his indepen-

dence,—

dence,—threw off all feudal ſubmiſſion,—aſſumed the ſtile of Prince,—and coined money with his own image upon it; a prerogative exerciſed by none of his predeceſſors, as Dukes of Benevento. During four reigns, this ſtate maintained itſelf on a reſpectable footing; and might long have continued ſo, had not civil war, added to very powerful aſſaults from abroad, haſtened its ruin. Radelchis and Siconulph aſpired to the principality; and each of them invited the Saracens to his aid. The deſolation cauſed by this conflict is ſcarcely to be deſcribed. No better method for terminating theſe fatal diſſentions could be deviſed, than dividing the dominions into two diſtinct ſovereignties. In 851, Radelchis reigned as Prince at Benevento; and his adverſary fixed his court, with the ſame title, at Salerno. From this treaty of partition, the ruin of the Lombards became inevitable: a want of union undermined their ſtrength,—foreigners gained an aſcendant over them,—irreſolution and weakneſs pervaded their

whole ſyſtem of government. The erection of Capua into a third principality, was another deſtructive operation: and now the inroads of the Saracens,—the attacks of the eaſtern and weſtern emperors,—anarchy and animoſity at home—reduced the Lombard ſtates to ſuch wretchedneſs, that they were able to make a very feeble reſiſtance to the Norman arms. The city of Benevento alone eſcaped their ſway, by a grant which the Emperor Henry the Second had made of it to the Biſhop of Rome, in exchange for the territory of Bamberg in Germany, where the Popes enjoyed a kind of ſovereignty. From the year 1054 to this day, the Roman See, with ſome ſhort interruptions of poſſeſſion, has exerciſed temporal dominion over this city. Benevento has given three Popes to the chair of St. Peter; viz. Felix the Third, Victor the Third, and Gregory the Eighth; and, what it is much prouder of, reckons St. Januarius in the liſt of its Biſhops.

SEC-

SECTION LVI.

I TOOK a walk in the evening to the field of battle, where Charles of Anjou defeated Manfred; and in the way would gladly have perſuaded my conductor to ſhew me the ſpot where the famous walnut-tree grew, round which the witches were ſuppoſed to aſſemble and keep their Sabbath. He denied having any knowledge of the place, though he confeſſed he believed that many old women of the neighbourhood were very well acquainted with it, and that ſeveral of his friends had heard the noiſes the ſorcereſſes make in the air, as they ride along on their broomſticks. This reſort of witches, which was believed by all writers upon dæmonology, and is ſtill ſo among the peaſants

peaſants hereabouts, is founded upon a very old tradition. The Lombards, whoſe creed differed little from that of other nations of Celtic origin, had a great veneration for trees, and were wont to perform, under particular hallowed ones, ſuch rites as were enjoined them by their ancient inſtitutions. At Benevento, the place of meeting was under a large walnut-tree; and it was cuſtomary to hang on the branches the figure of a viper, with two heads, coiled up. A ring of this kind was found ſome years ago. This ſymbol, which is expreſſive of the vital principle, is among the oldeſt emblems invented by man, and may be traced through the religion of all nations, from Japan to Iceland. When St. Barbatus converted the Beneventine Lombards to Chriſtianity, he cauſed the tree to be cut down; but the Legend gravely informs us, that the Devil found means to raiſe ſuckers out of the root, round which he and his ſultanas from Lapland, and other ſeminaries of magicians,

cians, flock by night to celebrate their infernal orgies.

The plain, where the battle was fought, lies about two miles down the river. Neither commander ſeems to have diſplayed any great military ſkill, but to have reſted the event upon the valour of his troops. Charles, indeed, had an advantage in the known treachery of the Neapolitan Barons in the Swabian army; as moſt of them had been gained over by his promiſes, or the Pope's ſpiritual threats. Manfred ſeeing the traitors refuſe to charge, ruſhed with his faithful adherents into the thickeſt of the fray, where he was ſlain. His body remained above a day undiſcovered, till a peaſant, who was well acquainted with his perſon, found it, and laying it acroſs his aſs, called out in deriſion, Who will attack Manfred? The French officers ſued in vain to their chief for leave to depoſit the corpſe in holy ground. Pignatelli, the Pope's Legate, inſiſted upon its being thrown

thrown into a ditch: every ſoldier in the army caſt a ſtone upon the grave, and thus raiſed a barrow over it. But this fanatical Prelate, whoſe revenge nothing could ſatisfy, cauſed the bones to be taken up, and ſcattered on the banks of the river Verde in Abruzzo, where no friend or humane perſon might find them, and again commit them to earth. Thus ended Manfred.—No Prince has been more virulently traduced by the Guelph writers, whoſe intereſt and hatred combined to ſet his character in as bad a light as poſſible, in order to ſtrengthen the claim of his opponent, and to ſupport the high pretenſions of the church. Some Ghibellines have attempted to do him juſtice. It would be no difficult taſk, with the documents that may be obtained from the chronicles of the thirteenth century, to draw up a fair ſtate of the queſtion, and vindicate Manfred from many of the heavy charges brought againſt him. An ingenious Author, in his hiſtoric doubts concerning

cerning our King Richard the Third, has pointed out the way of proceeding in ſuch a redintegration of character. Thoſe unfortunate monarchs reſembled each other in many particulars; but undoubtedly the Neapolitan greatly deſerves the preference. Manfred was beautiful in his perſon, accompliſhed in all arts then becoming a gentleman; affable, magnificent, liberal, great in his views, and anxious for the welfare of his people; inflexible and impartial in the diſtribution of juſtice; learned, for the times he lived in; and a protector of thoſe who cultivated ſcience. On the other hand, I muſt not diſſemble his contempt for religion,—but I impute the fault to the complexion of the times in which he lived,—when the temporal dictates of the Pope were ſo artfully interwoven with the ſpiritual dogmas of the church, that whoever dared to diſpute the former, was apt to reject the latter,—at leaſt was ſuppoſed ſo to do. I believe him to have indulged a paſſion

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for the fair ſex; but, had he been permitted to live longer, age would no doubt have brought on repentance, and he might have died in as good repute as Charlemagne, Lewis the Fourteenth, or any other great and amorous monarch. Manfred was ambitious,—and, to obtain a crown, infringed the laws of inheritance: but a defence of his conduct, on that point, would look like a ſatire on his numberleſs fellow-culprits, from Cæſar down to Kouli Khan;—and I muſt have better proofs than any yet alleged, to convince me of his having been a murderer and a parricide. If we had not examples, in all ages, of the like weakneſſes in other great men, I ſhould be aſtoniſhed to find Manfred ſuch a believer in aſtrology and omens. He gave an inſtance of this credulity, as he was marching to battle, by being ſo ſhocked at the falling of a ſilver eagle from his helmet, that he turned pale, and cried out, "This is a ſign "from God!"

On

On leaving Benevento, I croſſed the Calore, and travelled to Monteſarchio, up hill moſt of the way, by a very fine road. Three bridges, built of immenſe blocks of ſtone, are the only remains of the *Via Appia*. The ſoil varies, but is in many places volcanical: one ſmall hill is an entire lump of lava. Monteſarchio, a large town belonging to the Prince of Troja, ſtands at the head of a plain ſurrounded with lofty mountains on every ſide, except the north-weſt corner, where the chain is broken. This plain is of an oblong ſhape, and has, in my opinion, been originally the crater of a very large volcano, and afterwards a lake. The ſediment of the waters may have levelled and filled up the bottom; and at laſt a ſhock may have broken down ſome part of the environing hills, and let out the water. Torrents waſhing down the ſoil of the mountains, may have continued to raiſe the level, and cultivation completed the drainage. This ſeems to me, from its ſize and poſition,

poſition, to be the place where the Roman Conſuls, and their army of thirty thouſand men, were enveloped and captured by the Samnites, who poſſeſſed themſelves of the high grounds,—blocked up the paſs that leads eaſtward to Benevento,—and, as ſoon as the Romans had entered the valley, cloſed up the way from Arpaia, by which the legions had entered. I know it is uſual to call the narrow dell below Arpaia, or that which leads to Durazzano, by the name of the Caudine Forks; and diſſertations have been written to prove and explain this idea. But thoſe vallies are ſo ſhort and narrow, that I cannot conceive how ſo many thouſand armed men, in marching array, could be ſqueezed into the ſpace. It is clear that the vanguard muſt have marched out at the head of the defile, before the rear could arrive at the bottom; which would effectually have fruſtrated the ſcheme of the Samnites. The flatneſs of the plain of Monteſarchio is not a ſufficient

ficient reaſon for rejecting my ſuppoſition, becauſe earth waſhed from mountains, ruins of houſes, and fall of wood, muſt, in the proceſs of ages, have raiſed the ſoil conſiderably, and changed the whole face of the country. At the Forchia d'Arpaia, the ancient Caudium, the paſs is ſtill ſo narrow, the hills on each ſide ſo bold and ſteep, that even now it would be eaſy to throw in ſuch an abattis as could not be forced, though defended only by a handful of men.

From hence the deſcent is rapid to Arienzo, by a beautiful winding valley, well ſhaded with hanging woods of cheſnut-trees; the road excellent. Arienzo is a large burgh, in a low but delightful ſituation, ſurrounded with vineyards and gardens. It belonged to Etendart, one of Charles the Firſt's generals; then to Boffa; and now to Caraffa, Duke of Madaloni.

Here I left the hills, and travelled to Acerra, a neat city, walled round after the old manner, in a very flat, wet ſituation. Large drains prevent the river Lagno from being ſo deſtructive to its territory as it was in the time of the Romans, when its poſition was bad to a proverb. This fief was firſt held by a branch of the Aquino family, which failed in 1292. Otho of Brunſwick received it from his wife Joan the Firſt, and ſold it to Orſino. In Charles the Third's reign, Protogiudice had it; and, under Joan the Second, it paſſed to Origlia: Alphonſus the Firſt inveſted Cardines with it.—Acerra is called the country of Punchinellos, becauſe that comic character, which is to the Neapolitan ſtage what Harlequin the Bergamaſque is to the other Italian ones, is always underſtood to be a native of this little city. Punchinello is the wit, the droll of Neapolitan comedy, ſpeaks the provincial jargon, and has the excluſive privilege of ſaying good things

and *double entendres*. He is ſuch a favourite, that, in carnival time, the ſtreets of Naples are crowded with maſks in his dreſs, all acting inimitably a part, for which they are ſo exactly formed by nature. From Acerra to Naples, the road is ſandy, through one continued wood of vines and poplars.

INDEX

INDEX

OF

Remarkable PLACES, PERSONS, and THINGS.

VOL. II.

A

ACERRA Page 354
Agri River 126
Agriculture 144
Albaneſe 237
Alphonſus I. King of Sicily 52
Andria 317
Aquino Family 204
Archytas of Tarentum 97
Auguſtus Cæſar 156

B

Banduſia Fountain 33
Baſiento River 117
Battle of Benevento 347
—— of Bitonto 313
—— of Sinno 130
Benevento Page 334
Bitonto 312
Bohemund of Antioch 320
Bona Queen of Poland 9. 164
Bova 237
Brindiſi 291

C

Calabrian Cuſtoms 134
—— Horſes 181
—— Opinions 135
—— Cattle 143
Calypſo's Iſle 199
Canoſa 318
Cape Colonne 194

Caraffa Family Page 222
Cariata 173
Caſalnuovo 36
Caſſiodorus, Miniſter to Theodoric King of the Goths 214
Caſtel del Monte 315
Caſſano 140
Catanzaro 209
Caulon Ruins 221
Caudine Forks 352
Charles II. King of Naples 268
Charms againſt Fire-Arms 198
Cotton Trade 269
—— Culture 35
Cotrone 182
Conrade IV. Emperor 318. 327
Corigliano 158
Crati River 157. 158

D

Dogs of Calabria 140
Dog-Eaters 37
Duties on Fiſh 84
—— on Silk 253
Duels 20

E

Explanations of Horace 216

F

Fata Morgana 263
Ferdinand I. King of Naples 59
Fiſh of Taranto Page 70
Frederick II. Emperor 6. 51. 317
Frederick II. King of Sicily 191
Fruits of Calabria 249
—— of Puglia 88

G

Gallipoli 268
Game 277
Game Laws 138
Gerace 214
Gnatia Ruins 15
Gonſalvo de Cordova 107
Gypſies 168

H

Hannibal 106. 196
Heraclea 127

J

Jacinthus of Bari 5

L

Lawria, Roger de 191
Lecce 286
Locri Ruins 225

M

Manfred King of Sicily 111. 345
Manna 140
Manduria Ruins 39
Marſano Family 163
Maſſa 139
Melo of Bari 2
Melfi 333

Milo of Crotona Page 150
Monopoli 11
Muſic 284. 289

N

Nardo 278

O

Octavius Cæſar 117
Ofanto River 320
Oil 11. 269. 273
Olives 11. 272. 275
Oria 34

P

Pipino of Minervino 7
Poſſeſſions by Evil Spirits 231
Purple 65
Pyrrhus of Epire 103. 130
Pythagoras 186

R

Raymond Orſino 111
Reggio 249
Robert Duke of Puglia 3
Roger Earl of Sicily 4
Roſſano 163
Roſeto 132

S

St. Thomas of Aquino 204
St. Charles Borromeo 31
St. Nilus 164
Sebaſtian King of Portugal 205
Sheep 48
Silk 250
Spinelli Family 173
Squillacce 212
Stilo 220
Strongoli 180
Summons, mode of 215
Sybaris 146

T

Taranto 58
Tarantula 309
Tancred King of Sicily 290
Temple of Juno Lacynia 194
Thurium 151

V

Venoſa 328
Voltore Monte 332

W

Walnut Tree of the Witches 345
William I. King of Sicily 6

Z

Zaleucus of Locri 227

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.